

Mad God
(狂神)
Volume 03
The Demon Princess
Tang Jia San Shao
(唐家三少)

Story Description:

In a world in which humans, beasts, demons, gods, dragons and pixies fight for supremacy; A series of wars started between the great Beamon warriors of the Beast tribe, the Dragon Knights of the Human Empire, and the Fallen Angels of the Demon Clan. A mixed blood child is born, bearing the blood of humans, demons and beasts, who is destined to restructure the chess pieces of the world. Follow Layson through his many trials and tribulations, as he develops into the greatest warrior the world has ever seen.

Original Story can be found here: [Link](#)

Chapter 1: Going into the Battlefiled for the First Time

As I walked closer, their voices became clearer, “Jiyan, let me protect you tomorrow. I can disguise myself as a student and enter the battlefield with you. I can only be reassured if I fight by your side tomorrow.”

Can you stop bothering me? Why are you such a pest? I can protect myself, I don’t need your help. Do you think that you are impressive? Huh? Prove it! Make a full-frontal assault at the frontlines and make a full-frontal attack, wiping out both the demon and beast races in one fell swoop!”

Liwa sounded troubled as he replied, “Jiyan, why don’t you understand my feelings? We have known each other for years, but you still won’t accept me!”

Jiyan smiled coldly, saying, “I only like those who are powerful, I have told this to you many times. Although you have become a Dragon Knight, you are still weak. Come talk again when you become a Dragon General, I may consider you at that time.”

Liwa smiled bitterly and said, “Aren’t these conditions a little difficult? Nobody has ever become a Dragon General before the age of forty-five. Could it be that you want to marry when we are both forty some years old?”

Jiyan replied, “Who said that I wanted to marry you? There are always powerful individuals in this world. I advise you to find another target for your affection and stop bothering me in the future. Anyways, the night is late; I need to go back and rest.”

“Jiyan.....” Liwa grabbed Jiyan’s arm, pleading piteously.

Jiyan leered at him. Even Liwa, who had a tyrannical mastery of martial arts, couldn’t do a thing about her. Under her forceful glare, he had no choice but to let go.

Jiyan quickly withdrew her arm. Sniggering coldly, she turned around

and left.

Liwa found himself staring idiotically at Jiyan's departing silhouette under the moonlight. Suddenly, he spoke, "You have seen enough, come out."

My heart skipped a beat, it seemed like my powers were still lacking compared to his. Despite the precautions that I took, I was still discovered. I came out of the shadows and walked up to Liwa.

Liwa looked at me from head to toe, "Oh, it's you Layson. Your powers have been growing at an incredible pace; If by chance, I hadn't noticed the sound of your breathing, I really wouldn't have discovered you."

I said plainly: "You still discovered me, anyways, I was only passing by."

Liwa let out a long sigh and said: "You also witnessed the scene just now. I just don't understand why Jiyan won't accept me. I have tried every tactic I could think of, but I haven't moved her heart at all. What do you suggest I do? Did you encounter such trouble chasing after Jisue?"

Looking at Liwa's helpless expression, I couldn't help but have the urge to smile, as I said: "Sorry, but I can't help you with this one, as I am inferior to you in this area. However, I feel that you will be fine if you let nature take its' course. Perhaps the more you chase after her, the less she will care about you."

Liwa hesitated for a second before nodding in agreement. He stepped forward and patted my broad shoulder saying, "You are the only person in the school whom I think highly of, be careful out there tomorrow. War is not a trifling matter. Also, please take care of Jiyan for me, I don't wish for her to get hurt."

I saw Liwa's sincere side for the first time under the shadows of the whirling and untrimmed trees. As I turned around and walked back in the direction that I came from I said, "She is Jisue's sister."

Liwa looked at the departing silhouette of my back, his eyes revealing the trace of a smile.

We stood within the city wall, prepared for the coming battle. We all

wore battle armor supplied to us by the military. Due to our special identities, the army gave us the best quality equipment. I equipped myself with everything but a weapon. I already had my best partner -Black Sable. I stroked its' body lightly, thinking, My friend, today I will let you drink the fresh blood of our enemies until you are full. Even if they are of my clan.

Fenyun's voice called out from the left: "Brother Lay, aren't you even a bit nervous?"

I shot a glance at him: "Nervous? What's there to be nervous about? Just don't forget what I said yesterday, and do what you are supposed to do."

"Boss, I'm a magician. don't expect much from me, in that formation I'm pretty much useless."

"Alright."

Not far behind me, Jiyuan stared at me with perplexed eyes.

A general walked up to us. He wore silver chainmail, a forked helmet, and held a long spear. He looked to be about 40 years old and from his heavy solid and imposing manner, I could tell that he was a commander that had experienced countless battles. "Students of Sky City academy, today, you will face our most deadly foes: the Demon Beast Alliance. The Marshal has arranged for you to join my left winged forces. In the entire army, my platoon is the most valorous and vigorous. On the battlefield, you can only survive with your own strength. I understand that this is your first time, but I request that all of you face this boldly. If anyone becomes a burden for us or a burden for my brothers, I will not hesitate to end that person's life. Do you understand?"

"We Understand." The reply seemed low spirited.

The general glared furiously and shouted loudly: "Do you understand?"

"Understood!" Under his pressure, the students became noticeably louder.

The general raised his spear high in one hand and shouted: "Depart."

The army troop that the General led was a heavy cavalry unit. Heavy cavalry units were also most expensive units to maintain. We were assigned to the leftmost flank of the unit, while the sides were filled with the heavy cavalry units. They were covered from head to toe with black armor, including their war horses. Every single person carried an assault spear around 3 meters long. I looked at their strictly organized unit, then looked back at our laxly spread out one. Us 100 students looked unremarkable compared to the whole heavy cavalry unit of 30,000 people, standing in formation. Their dense bloodlust pervaded the air. The Dragon Empire's way of training soldiers really was amazing; I'm afraid that, only our beast clan's Beamon army troops could have a chance of defeating them. It was a good thing that the Dragon Knight heavy cavalry units did not have a lot of people. Around me, all of the Sky City students relaxed, it was obvious that they were relieved that such powerful units were protecting them.

A large amount of troops from the Dragon Empire stood in front of the fort in a complex formation. I was unfamiliar with this kind of formation, as it did not coincide with the descriptions in the military books that I had read.

On the two flanks of the Dragon Empire's army, there were the heavy cavalry troops, the center consisted mostly of infantry, and behind the infantry lay the magicians. The light cavalry units were nowhere to be seen. I was confused, The center of the formation could easily be broken by the enemy's heavy units. But I doubt that General Liwo would make this kind of mistake with his experience. Then is it a trap to lure the enemy too deep inside the army? But I don't think this is the case either.

The beastman army forces are on our front right and the demon clan on our front left, which meant the enemy that we were going to confront was the demon clan. I secretly let out a relieved breath, I'm a member of Beamon clan after all: I do not want to confront my own clansmen, killing a few demons doesn't really mean anything to me though.

The armor that we wore was three inches thick, it was tougher than even black steel armor and also considerably lighter. I straightened my

head and donned my steel helmet. After wearing it, I turned to look behind me at the people I wanted to protect.

“Charge!” The Demon Clan, on the opposite side, initiated the attack; countless different kinds of low level demonic beasts could be seen rushing towards us.

The silver-armored general, who gave us an admonitory talk just now, lifted the long spear in his hand and all of the heavy cavalries held their 3 meter long steel spears with both hands and leaned their bodies forward, pointing their spears straight ahead. I immediately understood the meaning of their actions.

Under the lead of the silver-armored general, the heavy cavalry troops on the left flank charged towards the demonic beasts, like a lump of black cloud. Our student army forces were left behind by this unexpected charge, and some of the students even purposefully slowed down their horses; was it because they wanted to eat dust? The scene of the thousands of soldiers charging at their enemies made my blood boil intensely, arousing the berserk ability that slept inside me.

In a low voice, I said to Fenyun, who was next to me, “You and Jiyan cover us from the back; Fenwan, how about we rush to the front to kill the enemies at the frontline?”

Fenwan’s said in a slightly rigid voice, “I’ll listen to you; we can’t let our school lose face.”

I coldly snorted, saying, “Don’t be nervous, we aren’t doing this for the face of some bullshit school. Do you want to improve your martial skills? Then this is the best place to do so.” After saying these words, I pulled out Black Sable and kicked into Black Dragon’s belly, charging out onto the battlefield like an arrow.

Fenwan gritted his teeth, and then urged his own war horse to follow. Jiyan’s voice came from behind, “Layson, be careful.”

I waved Black Sable in my hand. Black Dragon had already reached his highest speed, and soon, I had caught up with the heavy cavalry unit at the front.

Just when we are about to confront the demonic beasts, countless light grenades flew out from behind us, bombarding the Demon Clan's camp. As the bombardment occurred, numerous demonic beasts were torn apart by the gorgeous magic. It seemed our magical backup had arrived.

The heavy cavalry assault left a very deep impression on me; no matter which demonic beast we encountered would fall. All demonic beasts seemed weak and frail before the shining, 3 meter long, black steel spears.

As I coagulated the Mad God chi, Black Sable released a constant stream of circles of yellow light. I finished off any demonic beasts that tried to approach me without a hitch.

There weren't many obstacles. And at the frontal charge where I was, a small gap was torn between the demonic beasts' troops. The silver-armoured general raised his voice and shouted: "Slow down, turn around and charge back." The whole heavy cavalry unit followed his orders right away and split into two forces, splitting to each side and charging, one half towards the left and the other half towards the right; going back after the demonic beasts that were dispersed and scattered around.

Fenwan had caught up to me at this point, and he constantly sliced out wind blades, chopping the demonic beasts in his vicinity into tiny pieces.

I bellowed, "What are you doing? Just killing them is enough; save your power!" At that moment, I suddenly felt a sharp wind piercing through the air from behind me. I ducked my head, and just as I was thinking of counterattacking, I discovered that the demonic beast who was sneaking behind me had been crushed into pieces. Jiyuan waved her staff in the distance, and her assistance warmed my heart.

Charging back towards the fort, the heavy cavalry units reformed their formation and I noticed the army as a whole had not received much damage; and the formations had withstood the first clash. On the other hand, our student unit was the most disarrayed: most of them didn't even know that they had dropped their helmets, and although none of us were badly injured, everyone besides me had a pale face. It was obvious that

everyone was terribly frightened.

The silver-armoured general shouted: "Everyone prepare for the second charge, the main forces of the Demon Clan have appeared!" And sure enough, the Demon Clan's regular troops, donned in armor, appeared before us. The silver-armoured general waved his spear towards me, indicating that I should join him.

I spurred Black Dragon with my heels, and came up beside him. "Young man, you were very courageous in the previous charge. Do you dare charge with me in the front?"

I proudly replied, "What is there to fear?"

"Very well, get ready. Brothers, the Demon Clan bastards are coming at us again, everyone follow me and charge!" A black vortex was once again stirred up. The silver-armoured general held his spear and charged to the forefront with me at his side. The feeling of leading thousands upon thousands of horses and soldiers caused my spirit and chi to rise up to its peak. And just like the sharp point of a long straight spear, we were first to slice into the enemy's formation.

DE: cliff hanger? I'll be back to continue this..... go go, go back to edit

The warriors in the demon clan's troops all had large builds and, just like us, they were heavy cavalry. There can only be one result of the two forces of heavy cavalries clashing together, and that was close combat. I no longer had time to care about the big picture, as Demons came rushing at me. With the cold power of my chi and Black Sable, not a single cavalryman could stand in my way.

As I fought alongside the silver-armoured general. I could only describe his spear skills as those of someone who had reached the pinnacle of battle. Every single thrust of his spear lead to the death of an enemy; with an invisible hole in his throat.

Overcome with bloodlust, we found ourselves deep inside the enemy's camp. Fenwan and the others were at the rear, so they weren't in much danger. The enemy forces had less cavalry than us, and their battle powers were lacking. It was inevitable that they would get destroyed.

The silver-armoured general suddenly bellowed, “Not good, steady your footsteps and stop charging forward!” I cut down two enemies with a swing of my sword, and concentrated my vision. I quickly realized the danger we were in; we were now too far from the fort, and on the other hand we are closer to the Demon Clan’s main camp.

The silver-armoured general stabbed at the surrounding enemies while saying to himself: “Weird, why haven’t the reinforcements come yet?” Right at that moment I felt a sharp pain in my back; crap, I was struck by an enemy. Fortunately with my Beamon defense, I wasn’t severely injured; it was just that the spot that was struck gave me a burning pain.

The silver-armoured general yelled, and the long spear in his hand turned the sky into luminescent spots and he cleared all my surrounding enemies in an instant. But this also exhausted quite some amount of his strength. He was breathing irregularly as he asked, “How are you, young man, can you still bear it?”

“I’m fine; I now know why the reinforcements haven’t come, look there.” I pointed at the other end of the battlefield.

As his eyes followed the direction of where I pointed, the silver-armored general couldn’t help but draw in a cold breath. With heights measuring 4 metres and above, the giant Beamon troops had come out. They were equipped with maces in their hands and the heavy cavalry were facing complete annihilation. As the fort sent reinforcements towards them, and 10 dragons appeared in the sky; all of our Dragon Knights had also been dispatched.

“The beastmen are going all out, the Beamon army forces have appeared.”

I suddenly thought of something, my expressions changed as I said, “General, let’s retreat, I’m afraid that the Demon Clan will match the beastmen’s assault and go all out as well.”

The silver-armoured general, while wielding his spear, said: “No, we definitely cannot retreat. Once we retreat, I’m afraid we will be completely wiped out. Quick, go to the rear and gather the students to

retreat along with you. You all are our hope for the future, I will stay here to stall the enemy as best as I can.”

As we were talking, the sky in front of us suddenly darkened, and dense sheets of black mist flew towards us. The silver-armoured general said with surprise, “Black magic! Damn it, what are our magicians doing?”

Actually, the mages couldn’t be blamed, we had charged ahead too quickly, and had already surpassed the perimeter of their magic protection.

“Young man, hurry up and go. I’ll stay here to hold the line.” How was he supposed to defend against that? Even his armor could not block such large scale Dark Magic.

And in an instant, the black mists had drifted to our position. Just when I was about to bring out Demonic Arts to block the enemy’s magic, I suddenly realized that there was a layer of light shield in front of me. The black mist dispersed in succession as it met the light shield, and I did not receive damage from the magical attack. Without looking, I knew that I had been protected by Jiyan.

However, the silver-armoured general wasn’t as lucky as me: even though his chi was powerful; the corrosion of the black magic made his armour become besmirched with rust. And it even had holes in some places where it was eaten by the strong corrosion effect of the black magic.

Big blocks of infantry rushed out from the Demon Clan’s camp. They charged towards us, two parts of them came from our rear. It looked like they wanted to encircle us.

The battlefield echoed with screams and cries. Although our heavy cavalry was powerful, most of them were only at the level of middle standard warrior. In the face of such large scaled black magic attack, how many could defend against it?

Cavalrymen and horses kept screaming and crying as they fell on the battlefield, and once they fell they never got up again.

In my heart, I was secretly shocked: such large-scale black magic could only be sustained by at least a thousand of the Demon Clan's Dark Wizards, -it seemed as if they were determined to take us down regardless of the cost.

But that was not the end; as the black magic slowly dispersed, I saw an even more terrifying scene. Behind the Dark Wizards, a unit of demons flying in the air with black feathered wings, wielding a special weapon-a narrow-bladed sword. I couldn't feel more dread, the trump card of the Demon clan had appeared-- The Fallen Angel Unit.

TL: this is how a narrow sword looks like,
<http://www.114pifa.com/p1029/5405708.html>

As I looked at their diving shadows, I immediately understood one thing: the heavy cavalry was finished.

I no longer wished to fight side by side with that silver-armoured general. I spurred Black Dragon and sped off, I didn't wish to die, and I didn't want to let my friends die either, especially Jiyan; she definitely couldn't die. A black shadow swept past in the sky above me; it was aiming towards Jiyan who was continuously casting light magic.

Since the time when the black magic appeared, our students had started to back off. They were terrified.

At this time, they have finally displayed the fruit of their normal training in the academy: they totally gave up their horses, and all manner of chi and wind-element magics were used and tossed out in extreme standards as they were fleeing for their lives. Was there even a need for me to lead them? Almost all of them had run away ages ago.

The Fallen Angels' formidability was fully displayed; although the fort had sent quite a number of Dragon Knights as re-enforcements, their aid was too slow to be of any help. The Fallen Angels had already gone straight into the army's heavy cavalry forces, and they were slaughtering my battle companions with terrifyingly speed; with a flash of black light, a heavy cavalryman would fall, never to rise again.

As I possessed this ability myself, I understood their power well. It is

absolutely possible for them to utterly eliminate all of us before the Dragon Knights arrived to help us. Facing the Fallen Angels, our fighting spirit completely vanished, and we could only passively get slaughtered.

One relief was that Fenyun and Fenwan had not left; they were still at Jiyan's side, protecting her from harm. Through their protection, Jiyan's light magic's deadly damage against the Demon Clan was able to be fully displayed.

As I saw, one Fallen Angel successfully get near them; I roared loudly: "Jiyan, be careful! above you!" How could Jiyan not have noticed the Fallen Angel? She started to concentrate the magical powers within her entire body, and released a protective screen that was composed of light-element magic. But the Fallen Angel sniggered, and slashed horizontally with the narrow sword in her hand. Black luminescence flashed passed, and with a single blow Jiyan's light-element shield was reduced to shreds of light, scattering into the air. I continuously fired low level magic from my hands, trying to stop her from harming Jiyan, but it was just like when I faced Liwa; these low level magics could not even break through the protective layer of the chi of her body.

I suddenly discovered in shock that from her voluptuous body shape, that fallen angel was actually a female.

Weren't females unable to train in the Demonic Arts? How could she? She let out a laugh like silver bells, and her narrow blade easily blocked Fenyun's and Fenwen's attacks, dispelling them immediately. She then lowered her left hand and grabbed Jiyan.

"You are such a beautiful young lady; come, let's go back to the Demon Clan together, haha." In that instant, I had finally caught up to them, urging Black Dragon forwards. Black Sable let out a green light, and I aimed directly at the center of the wings on her back.

The fallen angel raised her sword to parry it, paying no attention to my attack. A huge power rushed towards Black Sable from her sword, and I was only able to stabilize myself after using my Demonic Arts. Angrily, I shouted, "Let her go." The fallen angel, seeing that my longsword had not

been sent flying, smiled lightly in surprise, “Do you want to become a hero that saves the beauty? If you do, follow me.” Flapping her wings, she fled the battlefield.

“Fenwan, you two quickly retreat! Once you meet up with the Dragon Knights, you’ll be safe. I’m going to go save Jiyan.” Leaving behind these words, I spurred Black Dragon, and like a streak of black lightning, I chased after the fallen angel that had just left.

That fallen angel seemed not to want to shake me off her trail. Her speed would suddenly increase or decrease; every time I got closer to her, she would speed up, and every time the distance between us grew, she would slow down to wait for me. Jiyan was lying in the crook of her arm, immobile, and I couldn’t tell if she injured in any way. My heart was extremely uneasy; if any harm had come to Jiyan, how would I face Jisue?

It was a good thing that the fallen angel had chosen only to run on the major paths. Otherwise, I could only catch up with her by transforming into a fallen angel. I didn’t want to reveal abilities, and preferred to only to transform as a last resort, so I persisted on chasing her with Black Dragon.

I chased her from day to night, and then again from night to day. I wasn’t sure how far we’d run, but I understood that we had already entered the Demon Clan’s territory.

That fallen angel suddenly stopped at a forest, and threw Jiyan onto the grass nearby with a shake of her arm. In a delicate tone, she said, “Don’t run anymore, I’m tired to death. You stupid human, is she your wife? Why do you so desperately chase after her?”

My sweat flowed down as I reined Black Dragon to a stop; just in order to decrease the weight and thus increase the speed, I had already thrown away my helmet and all of my armour to reduce our weight while chasing after her. Right now I was only clothed in my sweat-soaked warrior suit.

I panted heavily as I looked at her, thinking that this Demon is surprisingly beautiful, her eyes were large, black, and gave off a mysterious feeling. Her age seemed to be about the same as mine, and her

leather armour was only protecting the important parts, the narrow sword in her right hand was shining with cold, pitch black luminescent; it's probably a treasured item, if not, it would have been broken in half by Black Sable when we crossed our swords.

She was comfortably stretching her body, flapping her wings behind her lightly; she looked arrogantly young and cute. Her well-developed adult body did not seem like those of her age, the double humps in front of her chest were vividly portrayed, her slim long legs were particularly tempting as well. The sight of her standing there in the light wind would cause anyone to imagine the view from under her short black leather skirt.

EN: Yeah that was really there...

When my thoughts reached that point, my heart quickly turned austere. No wonder there were legends about the demonic body figures. Even I, who has a strong will, it engendered reverie in me. I coldly shouted: "Let her go, and I will let you leave here safely!"

"Hihi, and what if I don't let her go, what will you do? Will you be able to defeat me? Haven't you thought it strange how although I have the power to kill you guys, I haven't done so yet?"

I coldy snorted, "If you can kill us, then why haven't you acted yet?"

She jumped up, smiling, "Of course there's a reason. I've never seen humans before. Looking at your appearances, you guys seem to be the prettiest amongst the humans I saw. So I was curious, and I baited you out here to examine you. You should just quickly tie yourself up and wait to be captured. I might just leave your corpse intact." Although she was talking about such vulgarity of beating and killing someone, for some reason, I couldn't feel the slightest hint of killing intent.

I slowly lifted my arm, pointing Black Sable at the ground, "Do you think I am scared of you? Little girl, If you want my life, then you'd better start trying to take it."

The fallen angel's eyes lit up, her purple irises glowing with an obsessed gaze, "Wow, you're so stylish, much stronger than those other trash. It's

unfortunate that you're a human, otherwise I might be chasing after you. Your sword is pretty good too. After you die, I'll take it. My name is Myu; when you fall to hell, you'd better remember it."

Her words made me wonder whether I should laugh or cry, do all the girls in Demon Clan pay for the keeping of an unprofitable business? I jumped down from Black Dragon's back and patted his head, Black Dragon knowingly ran to the side.

"Before we begin, I would like to ask you a question. Aren't male royals of the Demonic Clan the only ones capable of training to becoming Fallen Angels? Why are you capable of it?" This question had spun around my mind right from beginning to end. Before we fought, I had to figure out the answer.

Mo Yue laughed, "Hihi, I'm a special case. Since you're someone who will die anyways, it's fine if I just tell you. I'm the youngest princess of the Demonic Clan's royalty. My father always doted on me, and added onto the fact that he was already unable to break through the six wing stage of the Demonic Arts, he made an exception to the rule and injected his own Demonic Arts into my body, giving me the chance to train in the Demonic Arts. However, for this reason, father also lost two tiers of his magical powers. Now he is unable to transform into a 4-winged fallen angel; he said he would need two years to recover."

So is how it was. And here I had thought that the Demonic Arts grandmother had given me were wrong. I switched my sword to my left hand, and my right fist heavily slammed into the ground, using my most familiar move--Hurricane.

Mo Yue felt my power fluctuate, and her face showed a trace of surprise. Her pair of wings flew up, however the perimeter of my attack was extremely large, and with a 'hong' sound, the ground exploded, creating a large hole, spraying out countless shards of rock surging with strong Chi towards where she was flying in the air.

She looked down on me too much, and now I shall let her know my prowess. Myu wielded her narrow blade in her hands and formed a layer

of black screen, and the shards of rocks that were flying towards here were continuously reduced to ashes under her powerful chi.

The Mad God chi was cycling in my body madly, causing my hair to flutter in the air; a layer of yellow light enveloped my body and I roared loudly: "Heavenly Berserk." When facing an enemy, how could I give her a chance to gasp for a breath, as I roared angrily the Mad God Fist second mode was shot out like a blast. Wave-like yellow chi madly gushed toward Myu; under the shock, her little face seemed a little pale.

At the moment of the assault of my chi, Myu suddenly closed her wings and wrapped her body inside them. The huge wings completely enclosed her slim body, not leaving the slightest hint of a gap. The remaining shards of rocks and the chi of Heavenly Berserk were heavily hitting her. Especially the Heavenly Berserk, the power was so incredible that Myu's body was sent flying like a bullet and rammed into the forest.

I know, this was only successful because of her carelessness, with the strength of a Fallen Angel, it couldn't have inflicted any fundamental damage to her. Using the gap of the time before she recover, I flashed to Jiyan's side and grabbed her body, as I touched her, my heart eased at the same time, she wasn't injured, her meridian channels were just temporarily sealed.

Under the shock of my chi, Jiyan let out a infantile voice, and opened her eyes: "I'm not dead yet?" Rescuing Jiyan, my heart was filled with unconcealable joy, revealing a rare smile: "Yes, you haven't died yet, but the danger is not over. You can just rest at the sidelines and watch me take care of the enemy."

A strong force assailed me from behind. Hurriedly, I pulled Jiyan towards me and dodged by rolling to the side. The previously intact ground that we stood on was blasted into a giant hole by a violent power.

Mo Yue beat her wings and flew into the sky above us, she looked a bit like she was in a difficult situation; her originally neat hair was now messily spread out on her shoulders. Fuming, she pouted her mouth, "Human, it seems I've underestimated you. You've already lost your

chance of keeping your corpse intact; go die.” A dense dark black mist rushed out and surrounded her body, making her narrow sword(narrow sword) carry a cold glint.

I pushed away Jiyan, whom I had been holding, and just as I was planning to use Black Sable to face the attack, I discovered that it was already too late. The narrow blade had already pierced my right shoulder. Mad God chi combined with my original defense were able to deflect the narrow sword to the side, however, the force was very powerful, it still managed to leave a deep bloody scar on my shoulder.

An ice-cold feeling quickly spread from the wound and to the rest of my body; I felt numb momentarily. The Demonic Arts activated without my control, and quickly began to dispel the invasion of dark power, causing a burning pain in my shoulder.

Mo Yue did not pursue her attacks; she looked at me surprised, she was thinking, that attack with her blade just now should have pierced through my body no matter what, but in truth I was only lightly injured: “In my completed fallen angel transformation, you are the first one to directly receive my blade, and yet be able to retreat afterwards.”

I made use of the Mad God chi to seal the blood vessels in which the blood and qi circulate. Due to using too much strength with the right hand that held Black Sable, blue veins bulged from my hand, I stared straight without taking my eyes off her, waiting for her next attack. Jiyan, who was thrown to the side by me, just seemed a little pale, observing the situation with concern. I sighed secretly. If I wished to live today, it is impossible without transformation.

Berserk is not something I could fully control yet; what I can use now is only the Fallen Angel transformation, but Jiyan was just beside me. If I were to transform, my time being a spy in the Dragon Empire will end, and Jisue’s feelings will also.... Just as I was hesitating. Myu turned around and pointed her narrow blade at me, she said sinisterly: “If I killed you, would the humans lose a potential Dragon Knight?”

“Dragon Knight? I’ve never thought about it, but something’s for sure,

you cannot kill me.”

Mo Yue chuckled without a hint of anger, “Is that right? You have a lot of self-confidence. Let me test you and see: is your confidence strong enough, or is my blade stronger?”

Chapter 2: Demon Princess

As soon as she had finished speaking, I felt a gust of wind off to my left and the figure of Myu in front of me slowly dissolved- not good. She was too fast; I could only see her after-images.

Although her narrow blade had not pierced my body yet, the sharpness of her chi had already gashed my skin, delivering a dull pain. With the next strike, Myu aimed for my temple; even if my defense had been stronger, there could only be one outcome: a one way trip straight to hell.

Since I was constantly focused on her movements, the moment I noticed something had changed I gripped Black Sable tightly and used it to neatly parry her narrow blade – the sound of clashing steel was exceptionally piercing. While I was rammed back by the powerful force of this one attack, her attacks were far from over. With wings beating, Myu appeared directly in front of me, her hands casting numerous shadows directly stabbing all of my body's vital points.

Speed had never been my forte. I had my hands full with Myu's attacks and was barely blocking the ones aimed at my vital points. I couldn't afford to pay attention to any less crucial areas. The offensive power of a Fallen Angel was powerful; under her attacks, the blood flowed steadily from my body, dyeing my warrior's armor red.

Suddenly, a bright light grenade hit Myu directly at the center of her power-field. Although the aura from her sword scattered the magic attack into numerous threads of light, it did cause her to slow down for a moment. Thankfully, Jiyan was supporting me!

Without hesitation, I took advantage of this opening and began chanting: Darkness condense in thy soul. To have fallen is to be freed. Awaken! Myriad of magical powers that hath slumbered in mine blood! While chanting, an intense black glow started to radiate from my body.

I roared at the sky as huge wings sprouted from my back, tearing through my shirt in the process. My pale green hair turned an ebony black while a sinister smile appeared on my previously emotionless face. I

could feel the vast powers cycling through my body at ever increasing speeds while the dark element present in the surroundings rushed into my body at an astonishing pace. As my wings beat, stones scattered and sand whirled about on the ground in a vortex with me at its center.

Under the sun's rays, my irises had the appearance of shining black jewels. Black Sable formed an illusory layer of sword energy, blocking the Fallen Angel's blade as she pursued further attacks. DING! DING! DANG! DANG! The air was filled with the sounds of clashing swords.

Myu's gaze was filled with confusion and astonishment. "How? How is it possible for you to transform into a Fallen Angel? Are you not a human? Or are you one of the Demon Clan?"

Looking at Jiyan, whose eyes displayed the same astonishment, I smiled apologetically before answering Myu, "Did you think that only those of the Demon Clan could turn into a Fallen Angel? I didn't intend to kill you, but you've left me no choice."

I effortlessly raised Black Sable high into the air creating the illusion of a long black tower before charging at Myu, whose heart had been filled with terror and surprise. Techniques were meaningless to me, after my transformation my speed and power had increased by tenfold. I attacked with no wasted movements, and in a split second I had sent Myu flying with a single blow of my sword. If one were to compare our strength, there would have been no competition.

I chased after Myu, slashing her seven times successively, each strike more heavy and powerfull than the previous. Myu managed to endure my attacks with difficulty. The force of my blows had sent her crashing through four old, towering trees before she was able to stabilize herself. After my transformation I was completely filled with bloodlust; my only thought was the annihilation of the Fallen Angel before me. While in this vengeful state, one rational thought finally managed to form: Myu and I had attained the same form of a Fallen Angel. How is it, then, that I am able to completely dominate her with my speed and strength? I was on a completely different level, Myu was helpless before me.

The fact that Myu was able to transform into a Fallen Angel was itself an anomaly; she relied on the Demon Emperor's dark magic that had been inserted into her body to forcibly change her physique. By comparison, my dark magic had been trained through many years of hard work. With this in mind the reason for the difference in power became obvious. Coupled with my years of training, I also have the tyrannical physique of a Beamon; there was no way she could be my match. Even with my advantages, my situation was beginning to deteriorate. After a day and night of pursuit I had exhausted a large amount of strength and lost quite a lot of blood. Even though the transformation had given me incredible power, fitful weakness continued to invade my brain. Ending this fight quickly and decisively was in my best interest.

With loathing in her voice, Myu said, "I don't understand how you are able to transform into a Fallen Angel, but seeing as you desire my death let's perish together!" With her hair fluttering in the wind, Myu gripped her narrow blade with both hands while her aura steadily grew stronger. The black mist around her disappeared and was replaced by a faint, black luminescence.

Myu's desperation had become obvious, considering that she was willing to bet the outcome of our fight on one final attack. HMPH! She could try! With my defense, speed, and strength all above her own, even if she wanted to take me down with her, it would be nearly impossible for her. I decided to use the same tactic as Myu and began accumulating all my chi in order to utilise Violent Dance of the Mad Dragon, thus ending her life.

Killing a beauty wasn't something I was proud of, but in order to keep my secret I had no choice. A fake act of chivalry would have been impossible for me. My aura was cresting continuously when Myu suddenly screamed and rushed towards me, her sword and body as one. I smirked and shouted, "Violent Dance of the Mad Dragon!" while allowing Black Sable to lead my body in attack. Wildly spinning, I transformed into a torrent of bared fangs and brandished claws. My aura covered me and took the appearance of a gigantic black dragon, facing Myu's attack.

I had full confidence that our violent clash would lead to Myu seeking vengeance if she survived. As our indomitable attacks were about to collide, a blue light pulsed through Myu's black aura allowing her to forcefully alter her trajectory and point her attack directly at Jiyan.

Taken aback, I suddenly realized that Myu had always intended Jiyan as her target from the moment she had uttered the words, "...let's perish together!" I could not fathom how Myu was able to change direction in the middle of such a powerful attack. The only positive aspect of this situation was that I had only used eighty percent of my full power; the remains of the power I had saved would play a vital role. The enormous, black dragon formed by my aura's fast spinning changed direction and chased after Myu. Unfortunately, it would be impossible for me to counter Myu's attack before she could inflict a fatal wound on Jiyan; even though my speed was superior, I hadn't understood Myu's intentions quick enough.

I gritted my teeth as I rushed at full speed towards Jiyan. Just as the black glow emanating from Myu pierced through Jiyan's Holy Barrier, my body – with its black dragon aura – moved into the path of Myu's attack as it reached Jiyan's body and blocked the attack's full force. HONG! The immense reaction created by the collision of power left an enormous hole in the ground blowing dust and debris into the sky.

The violent air currents shoved Jiyan to the side, causing the blood to further drain from her already pale complexion. At the end I was left standing proudly in front of Jiyan, Black Sable in my hand with Myu's blood dripping from the blade. Myu was about ten steps in front of me, her hair disheveled and feathers falling from her wings. Myu looked at me bitterly while continuously spewing forth mouthfuls of blood and putting pressure on her wound, her eyes glazed over. Sighing, I said, "Leave now, killing a woman is not worth sully my honor. I don't expect to ever see you again. However, I will find you if you ever leak a word of what you've seen today. You will not be safe even if you were to hide within the depths of the demon castle. If that moment comes to pass, not even you can blame me for being ruthless toward a lady."

Myu glared at me ferociously before backing away, step by step. Abruptly, she whirled around and took to the sky, beating her wings with difficulty. It was obvious by Myu's erratic flying that she was heavily injured. I heaved a great sigh of relief as I watched Myu's swaying silhouette slowly disappear into the horizon.

Jiyan walked to my side and frowning, inquired, "Why didn't you kill her?" I smiled bitterly at her but could no longer hold the large quantity of blood in my mouth, as the blood poured out my body collapsed from lack of strength and I crumpled to the ground. The wings on my back gradually receded back into my body; the Fallen Angel transformation slowly disappeared.

In order save Jiyan, I had used my body as a shield to block Myu's attack. Although there wasn't much damage on the surface, all my inner meridian channels had been heavily damaged; I had forcefully held in the pain to scare away Myu. If she had persisted with one more sword strike, I'm afraid that my soul would have immediately been sent straight to hell. Startled, Jiyan cried out as she quickly supported my body, "Are you okay?"

"My injuries are severe. Remember what I am about to tell you, we can no longer return the way we came. Even as we speak, there may be a large regiment from the surrounding Demon Clan army attempting to capture us. We must go deeper into the Demon Clan's territory. Also, you cannot use your light-element magic to heal me; it will have the opposite effect. Let's wait here until I recover some more. I'll call Black Dragon in a little bit; be certain to bring me along with you." A short time later I summoned Black Dragon and, with the help of Jiyan, I mounted my horse. Jiyan mounted Black Dragon and allowed me to lean on her while embracing her waist. I ordered Black Dragon to obey Jiyan's requests and then fainted with Jiyan's fragrance permeating my nostrils...

.....

I woke up due to the severe pain caused by my damaged meridian channels and discovered that I was lying on a pile of leaves. Looking at the sky, I could tell that it was about midnight. Jiyan was using a stick to

poke at the fire with an absent-minded gaze; I couldn't tell what she was thinking about. Under the light of the fire; Jiyan's face took on an exquisite radiance; any person seeing her face in this light could not help but want to bask in its glow.

I activated the Demonic Arts and attempted to repair the meridian channels in my body. However, an intense pain emanated from the broken parts of my meridian channels. I couldn't bear the pain and wailed once more.

Jiyan snapped out of her brooding and ran to my side, "Lie down and don't move, your injuries are quite severe. I didn't dare try to heal you after what you said. We rode deeper into the Demon Clan's territory for about 100 km, and only stopped because I was afraid your injuries might get worse. I've bandaged all your external injuries, but you're the only one who can fix your inner wounds. We cannot let anything happen to you; you still have to protect me."

The injuries this time weren't as heavy as those from the last time I fought in my Fallen Angel form, but my old injuries that had just healed were now reopened by the new injuries. A complete recovery was not achievable in one or two days. I managed to nod and said, "Thank you, how's your wound?"

Jiyan's tone was very gentle and demure, "That kind of minor injury stopped being a problem ages ago; healing is a magician's forte. Eat something, I brought rations." While speaking, she quickly returned to the crackling fire, picking up a few pieces of dry, charred meat. Jiyan seemed somewhat embarrassed and her face turned red as she said, "I haven't cooked before, just make do with it while you eat; there's nothing else to eat right now."

I tried to lift my hand to take the meat from her, but an intense pain halted my movements. Seeing my pained expression, Jiyan quickly repositioned herself in order to keep me from moving needlessly. She tore off a strip of charred, dried meat and placed it in my mouth. In the pitch black of the night, Jiyan's actions evoked an undefinable feeling inside me to the point I didn't even taste the meat. Neither of us spoke as Jiyan

continued to tear off pieces of dried meat and feed them to me. I quietly enjoyed her gentleness. Every now and then, the tips of her fingers would touch my lips, sending an electric shock through my whole body. The only time I had ever experienced a similar feeling was my first kiss with Jisue.

A good while later, I broke the silence as my stomach could no longer hold any more food, “I’m full. You should also eat something.” Jiyan’s appetite was very small; she only ate a little food and then stopped. She effortlessly cast a low-level, water-element, magic spell and a few orbs of water appeared before us.

Jiyan took out two wooden bowls, and as she put the orbs of water into the bowls, she said, “Earlier, I used your sword to carve out these two bowls. You aren’t angry, are you?” As she spoke, I noticed that both the bowls had one of our names carved onto them. Although the taste of water made from magic wasn’t very good, I drank it with relish.

Jiyan took the cloak off her body and covered me, “Sleep now, I hope you get well soon. If there is anything you need, call me.” She finished speaking and walked to the fire to lie down.

I felt very rejuvenated, Jiyan’s skill at dressing wounds was rather good. I wondered where she had found the cloth she used. I also wondered, why she didn’t ask me about my Fallen Angel transformation? Wasn’t she curious? Her meticulous care had made my heart feel incomparably warm. Looking at the charming and graceful silhouette of her back, I slowly drifted off to sleep.

.....

In the morning the crisp sounds of birds woke me from my dreams; a night of good rest had made me feel a lot more comfortable. The meridian channels were only dredged a little, but my body’s recovery ability was strong and the exterior wounds didn’t bother me anymore.

The crackling fire had long been extinguished, smoke trailing from the embers. Lying next to the ashes and embers, Jiyan had curled up to keep warm. I supported my body as I stood up, walked up to her, and covered

her with the cloak she had lent me. At that moment, I noticed Jiyan's face was red; it made me a little uneasy. I softly called: "Jiyan, wake up. Wake up." To my surprise, she did not respond.

I placed my hand on Jiyan's forehead and I was shocked to find that it was boiling hot. This was not good; she had a fever. With Jiyan's accomplishments as a light-element magician, she shouldn't have gotten sick this easily; but with yesterday's events and her injuries, it had happened. Additionally, she had used her cloak to keep me warm while leaving herself to the mercy of the cold night. It was no wonder she had gotten sick.

Taking care of patients was an incredibly difficult task for me and before long my forehead was covered with beads of sweat. When I raised my hand to wipe the moisture away, I noticed that the dressing on my injured hand was not gauze but some sort of white cloth. I crouched down beside Jiyan, carefully raised the lower hem of her skirt and saw what I expected, there was only crystal clear snow white skin underneath her thin clothing. Yesterday, Jiyan had used her own undergarments as the base material to dress my wounds.

My head exploded with a HONG! A burst of confusion appeared in my eyes; Jiyan had silently sacrificed so much just for my sake. If it wasn't for me, she wouldn't have fallen sick. Even if I had a heart of steel, there's no way that I couldn't be moved by her selfless act.

I was lifting Jiyan, whose whole body was boiling, when she murmured: "Water...water..." With a wave of my hand I created a water orb, placing it into the crafted bowl that had her name on it and helped her take small sips. I tore off a piece of cloth from my own undergarments and soaked it with another water orb, folded it into a rectangle, and placed it on her head. I could only pray that she would wake up soon.

I gave Jiyan water more than twenty times throughout the day, and replaced the cloth soaked in cold water on her head ten times more. As the sky slowly darkened, Jiyan's forehead had cooled down a bit; the fever had finally broken. I restarted the campfire next to her and wrapped the cloak tightly around her. I didn't dare fall asleep while Jiyan was in this

condition and decided to train instead. While training I was conscious enough to attend to Jiyan's needs and at the same time attempt to repair my damaged meridian channels.

"Layson...? Layson...?" I was woken from my training by Jiyan's voice calling my name. As I opened my eyes, I discovered she was still asleep and sleep-talking, softly saying my name over and over again. I held her small, ice-cold hand and gently spoke in her ear, "I'm here, sleep well. When you wake up tomorrow everything will be alright." Jiyan's sleep-talking gradually faded away; the expression on her face returning to its original peacefulness. After falling back into a deep slumber, Jiyan's grasp on my hand did not lessen; I decided it was better to leave my hand in hers rather than to disturb her further.

I completely separated the Mad God chi from the dark energies of the Demonic Arts and, bit by bit, I inserted Mad God chi into Jiyan's body in hopes of dispelling her sickness. While it appeared successful at first, as the infused chi was about to take hold it was immediately rejected by the holy energies present in Jiyan's body. The feedback from her powerful, divine energies nearly caused QiGong deviation in me.

My body's pain and weariness caused me to experience exhaustion like no other and I blacked out. I collapsed next to Jiyan while still holding her dainty hand, I could feel the warmth in her hands return as I lost consciousness.

I felt something damp moving across my face, alternating between ice-cold and warm; I felt groggy and was too lazy to open my eyes as the dampness continued to move. As my brain slowly began to work and my mind became more lucid I realized what was on my face. It was a gentle, smooth little hand, and it belonged to Jiyan. Fearful that Jiyan might discover I was awake, I maintained my original position and breathing rate to avoid any awkwardness.

"Layson, you sleep really soundly! Although I wasn't quite conscious, I know you were taking care of me yesterday. Why are you so good to me? Hmm...why is your face red? Ah!" A person as smart as Jiyan immediately noticed my conscious state and she swiftly retracted the hand that was

touching my face.

I knew that I could no longer continue the charade and slowly opened my eyes. I moved my lips a little and only managed to squeeze out one word, "Morning." Jiyan's face was red as she nodded with embarrassment. "What morning? It's already afternoon." It was true, the sun had risen high in the sky, past its summit. "Ah! I slept for so long. Are you feeling better?"

After a few sentences of conversation, we gradually relaxed. Jiyan smiled, "It's fine now, thank you for yesterday."

"Thank me for what? That was something I had to do; if you hadn't helped me flee so far, we may have already been captured. I bet you're hungry, I'll go find you some food since the rations have all been eaten." As I stood up, I noticed that our hands were still tightly intertwined and my darker skin had started turning a bit blue. Jiyan's pretty face became as red as an apple.

Our hands had grown stiff after being entwined for a whole night; we were only able to separate them after a few tries. An unspeakable emptiness entered my heart; Jiyan's expression dimmed as well.

.....

I bit into a fruit that I had found in the forest, eating it without even knowing what it was. Jiyan leaned against a tree, eating the same fruit. My original plan had been to hunt some small game for dinner, but Jiyan had said that we shouldn't kill just to sate our hunger or else we might receive divine punishment. She wouldn't let me hunt no matter what arguments I made.

I felt as if I had turned into another person. In front of Jiyan, I could no longer bring out the coldness and detachment I had in the past. Without any alternatives, I could only accept her request.

I brought back a plethora of assorted fruit. Jiyan looked at each fruit once, easily selecting the fruits that were edible and in that instant I became a vegetarian. By the time we were done with the fruit, the sky had already darkened and the sun's afterglow gave the forest a yellowish tint.

Jiyan softly said in an awed voice, “If it weren’t for the coming of dusk, the sunset’s beauty would be infinite.” Looking at her expression, Jiyan appeared very emotional.

I suddenly felt very impulsive. I fought to suppress the secrets in my heart that wanted to burst free – wanting to confess themselves to Jiyan. I beat down the urge in my heart and lowered my tone as much as possible in order to keep my breath even, “Why do you suddenly feel such deep emotion toward the sunset?”

Jiyan turned her head and smiled at me and her tender expression stunned me for a short moment, “I just thought of my father and mother.”

Surprised, I asked, “Are...are they unwell?”

Jiyan smiled bitterly, “They appear to be well on the surface, but do you truly think their relationship is that harmonious? It isn’t. They are the sacrificial lambs of politics. That year, my grandfather took notice of my father’s potential and betrothed my mother to him. Father borrowed grandfather’s power and experienced a meteoric rise in the kingdom’s ranks, finally attaining his current position. At the same time, while I knew mother was always well-to-do, I also knew that any sincere love was absent between them. Although mother tried her best to dote on father, he merely returned a respect and concern that was expected of a husband toward his wife.”

Who could understand this matter better than me? The Duke had given his heart to my mother long ago. If my mother hadn’t been snatched away by my father, the Beamon King, you and your sister wouldn’t exist in this world. Of course, I wouldn’t exist either. In other words, the god of destiny makes fools of the people.

“Of course,” I said, “They would have their own way of living after so many years. It’s not something you can change, let nature take it’s course.”

As the sun slowly disappeared below the horizon, I brought the firewood I had gathered back to camp and made use of a low-level fire spell to light the campfire. “Jiyan, you should come closer, too. You just

recovered from your fever, you can't afford to catch another cold."

Jiyan smiled sweetly, "I'm not that frail." Although that's what she said, she still came to the fire and sat down. "Are your injuries better? By protecting me that day, you sustained heavy injuries."

I frowned and said, "You don't need to thank me so profusely, okay? Didn't you save and nurse me as well?" Asking this question, we looked at each other simultaneously, our eyes met and we lowered our heads simultaneously as well.

As time passed, we just sat there in silence. I was the one to break the silence first, "Why didn't you ask me why I could transform into a Fallen Angel?"

Jiyan's body trembled and she said flatly, "I realise that it's your secret to tell, that's why I didn't ask. I'm also afraid of knowing the truth. Although, I hope that if you ever wish to tell me, you will tell me."

I sighed and said, "Thank you for respecting my privacy. I don't know why, but I really want to tell you what's in my heart."

Jiyan smiled, "Didn't you just say that there was no need for thanks? Just tell me whatever is on your mind, I'll always be willing to listen."

Listening to her words, my whole body trembled as I lifted my head. It seemed to me that there was more to what she was trying to convey than what she said.

"I'm not human." Finishing this sentence, I immediately saw a flash of horror in Jiyan's eyes, but it was gone in an instant. She really did have great self-discipline; in merely a moment she had composed herself again. "I'm not a Demon either. Strictly speaking, I would be counted among the Beastman."

This time Jiyan could no longer contain her shock, "What? You're a Beastman? But you don't look like one at all!"

I glanced at her, and spoke slowly, "I'm a human, Demon, and Beastman hybrid. I have a Beastman's tyrannical strength with a human's appearance and wisdom. As for the characteristics of a Demon, I think it

comes down to me being able to turn into a Fallen Angel and use dark magic.”

To Jiyan, every word I had said was a shocking discovery. Although she willed herself to remain calm, she couldn’t completely suppress her shock, “But my father investigated you; your identity didn’t match what you just said in any way.”

Calmly I said, “That was just the cover I used in order to gain entry into the Dragon Empire. My true identity is as the vice leader of the Beamon Corps, and the Beamon King is my father. The reason I can turn into a Fallen Angel is because I obtained a copy of Demonic Arts from the Demon Clan. My grandmother was a princess from the demon race, which makes me part of their royal lineage. After years of hard work, I was finally able to transform for the first time during our last school break.”

“If you really are a Beastman, for what reason did you come to the Dragon Empire?”

“To steal your military tactics and to learn your secrets, of course. The Beastmen are the weakest out of the three empires. Every time we participate in a major war, we always suffer the most casualties. At this rate, the continent will no longer have any territory for the Beastmen. We’ll end up as slaves to the Demons or humans. For this reason, the Beast King dispatched me, with my human appearance, to blend in with Dragon Empire’s human population. For the most part, my journey has been going smoothly. I managed to learn quite a few things from the Sky City’s library. I am scary, aren’t I?”

Jiyan’s face twisted and her voice gradually rose in pitch as she said, “Then what about Jisue? Did you deliberately get close to Jisue for this reason?”

I shook my head, “No, my feelings for Jisue are genuine.”

“Then does she also know your true identity?”

“No, she doesn’t know; I didn’t want to tell her. I’m afraid that if I did, she would leave me. Aren’t I selfish? You’re the first person to whom I’ve

admitted the truth. I don't know why, but I don't want to hide anymore. I feel very worn out."

I held her hand tightly, while she spoke with a slightly trembling voice. "In other words, you really did deceive my sister. Why? Why would you lie to her? If she knew about this, do you think that she would reject you? My sister's feelings for you are very deep."

I didn't bother answering her question, and with glazed eyes I continued. "I once asked Jisue what she would do if I were to leave here and never return. She replied that she would follow me wherever I went. It was from that moment that I completely gave myself over to her."

Jiyan's voice softened a bit, "This is all too shocking. Even if Jisue truly doesn't care about these things, what about Father? Could he accept you, a Beastman spy?"

I laughed bitterly, "Yes, I'm a Beastman spy; but I'm also a failure as a spy. To be honest, I don't really want to return to the Beastman country. The days I spent in the Dragon Empire have been really heart-warming. How will I be able to return to my country? But, after all is said and done, I have Beastman blood in me. Who can understand the pain in my heart? Rest assured, I haven't done anything to Jisue; if she isn't willing to accept me, I will not touch her. We've only spent a short time together and, even if she has deep feelings for me, it can be forgotten over time. Today, I've revealed myself to you and, therefore, I can no longer return to the Dragon Empire."

Jiyan stood up, walked around the campfire, and sat beside me. She gently placed her arm around my shoulders, "Come on, don't be like this. I was too harsh just now. I'm sorry."

I said plainly, "There is nothing to apologise for. You have listened to me calmly; that isn't an easy task. You were probably right, perhaps I'm really not the best match for Jisue."

"When your wounds are healed, what will you do?"

"What can I do? Originally, I thought that the troops of the Demon Clan would give chase, but it would appear that they either went in the

wrong direction or that the Demon Princess really hasn't revealed our identities. How about this? We'll wait for two days whilst I think of a way to send you back. Once I have seen you safely on your way, I'll return to the Beast Clan. Please tell Jisue everything about me. If she is willing to accept me, tell her to wait for 3 years. After three years have passed, I'll come back and find her. If she isn't willing, I won't resent her for it. I only hope for her sincere happiness."

"Are you really not coming back?"

I nodded, "Didn't I just tell you? Because I've told you all these things today, I don't plan to go back anymore. You can tell them whatever you like; you can say that I perished in battle or even that I was captured."

Jiyan suddenly glared at me, her eyes widening, "What if I never heard what you just said?"

Chapter 3: Demon City

Surprised by Jiyan's words and trembling all over I asked her, "You want me to stay in the Dragon Empire even though I'm a Beastman Spy? Don't deceive yourself, you and I are from different races. I'm a danger to you and all humans."

Jiyan stubbornly responded, "How different can we be? Don't you have human heritage?"

I let out a haggard sigh and said, "Forget it. I no longer want to live wearing a mask. I'm tired...really, really tired."

Jiyan continued in her attempt to persuade me, "Whayet about Jisue? She'll miss you. She couldn't bare for you to leave."

Helplessly, I conceded, "I feel just as reluctant about leaving Jisue, but this situation is out of my control. Currently, my only option is to return to Beastman country. I can only hope that Jisue will forget about me." Suddenly, Jiyan's voluptuous body was pressed tight against me as she embraced my arm. Jiyan's voice dropped to a soft whisper, "But...I would also hate to part with you."

The shock I felt made me think I had misheard her, "What?!? What did you say?"

Summoning her courage, Jiyan looked at me while cemented in place and in a very clear and concise tone restated, "I, too, don't want you to leave." It felt as if lightning had struck me in that very moment; my muscles were numb and wouldn't move. Even though I knew Jiyan had a favorable impression of me, I never could've imagined that she would confess such heartfelt feelings so boldly.

Eventually, after some time, I was finally able to calm the erupting waves of emotion surging through my body. "Stop saying such silly things. We're good friends and if I get the opportunity in the future, I'll return to the Dragon Empire to see you."

Even though Jiyan's complexion had turned red, and her face puffy. She

adamantly retorted, “Don’t avoid the subject! You know that’s not what I meant. I like you. I like you from the bottom of my heart. Why is Jisue allowed by your side but I’m not? I won’t stop you if you feel that you need to return to the Beastman’s country; a man should do what he wants, but I have one request.”

Absentmindedly I asked, “What is it?”

Jiyan took a deep breath and then calmly replied, “I request that you give me the same opportunity as Jisue. Let me wait for you for three years, all right?”

HONG! My mind exploded; I was dumbfounded by the revelation in front of me. Staring blankly at Jiyan, I couldn’t make a sound. Jiyan’s eyes were again bloodshot. Choking on her sadness, she cried, “Do...do I not even get the chance to wait for you?”

I raised my hand and gently wiped the tears from her face. “Why are you so good to me? I don’t deserve for you to do this!”

Jiyan pursed her lips and glared at me. “Whether you deserve it or not isn’t something you decide for yourself. Let me wait for you, okay? And don’t worry about Liwa. I’ve never liked him. You’re the man who broke down the barriers within my heart and now I’ve shamelessly told you my inner feelings. Couldn’t you even give me the faintest of chances? You’re very cruel.”

“Jiyan, I...alright, if you’re absolutely certain about what you said.”

A beautiful smile once again appeared on Jiyan’s face. She looked like a pear blossom bathed in the rain; I found myself enamored with the scene. “I’m sure. Of course I’m sure. Don’t worry, my sister will also be willing to wait for you. I can definitely convince Jisue to accept me as your girlfriend. I know my sister much better than you do.”

My heart became heavier due to the burden of the additional promise I made, “If I haven’t died after three years, I’ll definitely come back to both of you.”

Jiyan covered my mouth and said: “Don’t say such unlucky things. You’ll

definitely be fine, Layson.”

My only answer was, “Ern.”

“Layson, can you hold me?”

When I heard her request, it felt as if all the blood in my body had started boiling. I desperately took her in my arms and, just like that, held her tightly in silence. Jiyan’s soft body fit snugly into my embrace; two pure hearts having an ephemeral rendezvous.

We listened to each others rapid heartbeats. Even the fire beside us seemed to dim as if reacting to the atmosphere. I tilted her face toward mine with a gentle hand beneath her chin, looked at her charming cherry lips, and slowly started closing the distance between us.

Jiyan obediently closed her eyes, waiting for me to imprint myself on her. Just when our lips were about to touch, a strong white light pulsed from Jiyan’s body. “Ping!” I was suddenly sent flying by this force and I crashed into a tree, heavily. Jiyan quickly came running over. I sprayed out a mouthful of blood, my eyes filled with an incredulous expression, “You...you...w.....why.....” Jiyan cried, calling my name, as if to explain what had happened, but my consciousness had started fading. The divine power of the light element was performing a desperate fight of life and death against the last ditch defense of the Demonic Arts in my body, a battle that will also decide my life and death. As my body went into intense pain, I fell unconscious in Jiyan’s arms.

.....

When I woke up, I was still leaning on Jiyan’s body. She was sitting against a tree, her face streaked with drops of crystal-clear tears. I checked my body and was relieved to discover that my dark magic was still pure. My meridians might have been severely damaged, but they were still doing their jobs by forcing the light element from my body, defending my life.

One blessing in disguise was that in the fight between the two opposing elements, the broken and damaged meridians were actually cleared up a lot.

Stretching my hands and legs I was delighted to discover that the pain had been reduced by quite a fair bit. I patted Jiyan's face and said, "Wake up."

Jiyan opened her sleepy eyes and hazily looked at me, "Ah, Layson! You woke up, are you alright?"

I nodded, frowned as I looked at her, and asked, "I'm fine; what happened?"

Jiyan looked at me apologetically and said, "I also don't know how it happened; but when I was born, I had a soft white glow radiating from my body. Father had me checked by an experienced and knowledgeable light-element wizard, who told him that I had an inexplicable divine power, but it had no major effect to my body. A few years later, when I was seven years old, I was playing outside and ran into a pervert, he seemed like a pedophile and when he attempted to kiss me, he was sent flying by a ray of light, just as you were earlier. I could feel a flood of power pouring out, but I was completely unable to control it. As I grew up, and started to study light magic, I improved rapidly, however even now I'm still unable to control that mysterious power. My teacher said that when my magic power grows stronger, I would be able to control it. I'm sorry that you got hurt again because of me."

Listening to her explanation, I could only admit that I've had bad luck. I didn't know how to react as I said, "I never thought that I would get the same treatment as a pervert."

Jiyan blushed and said, "I'll train harder, and when you... near me again, this will certainly not be the case again."

I would hope so, no one would wish to marry a wife who one could only see but couldn't touch. I sighed and said, "All of these apply for later on, I just have to avoid touching you for now. Don't be too hard on yourself, you can't be blamed for this. I'll hurry and concentrate on cultivation, and then I'll send you back..."

Jiyan nodded silently and from that day onwards, Jiyan took over the managing of my daily diet, as I let her handle the chore of gathering fruit.

Jiyan took care of me meticulously, like how a gentle wife would care for her husband, and I could no longer feel the previous frigid arrogance and coldness of Jiyan radiated in the past.

As for me, I wholeheartedly committed myself to cultivation. After having the experience of repairing my meridians once before, I didn't try to go through any detours⁰ this time and the recovery was pretty smooth. Half a month later, my body was basically back to normal and I had a definite improvement in my Demonic Arts. The fourth tier of Demonic Arts was actually very easy to cultivate. I had only reached the stage where I am able to transform a few months ago, and my Demonic Arts had already been trained to the middle of the fourth tier.

[TL note⁰: Remember the first time he turned into a Fallen Angel and then broke his meridians? TL note¹: Refer to chapter 1]

.....

“Layson, take a break, and come eat something.” Jiyan called to me to lunch.

“Coming~” I had long ago cast off the mask* and childlike, I ran to her side, “Wow, today’s a generous serving of good fruits.”

Jiyan laughed: “Ah, yes, today Black Dragon and I rode around in a big circle. It seems that we won’t have to go out for two days with this.”

[TL note^{*}: Remember when he was talking about the mask? It refers to faking his identity and his coldhearted gaze and whatnot]

I picked up an unidentified fruit and bit down. Sweet juices poured into my mouth. “Delicious, it’s really delicious. Right, Jiyan. My injuries are almost completely healed, so we’ll be departing soon.”

Jiyan’s expression dimmed, and she said, “Don’t stress, you can relax a few more days. It won’t be too late for us to depart after you are completely recovered.”

How could I not understand her sadness of parting with me, but what needs to separate will separate in the end, this can’t be avoided. I sighed and said, “Don’t be like this, okay? This is the third time you’ve said that.

The sooner we part, the sooner we can meet again, am I wrong?"

Jiyan started playing with the fruit in her hands and bit her lips: "Alright then, let's tidy up a bit and then we can go."

At this time, a sly expression suddenly flashed in across her face. Following which she said, "But, do you know which direction we should be traveling in...?"

I halted in my tracks. Good question, What is the correct route back? I could still vaguely remember our direction after I chased down Myu, but then I fainted and Jiyan took control over steering Black Dragon. How could I possibly know our coordinates? This could be troublesome.

I scratched my head, "I don't know. If it's really impossible, then our only option is to continue walking in one direction. Regardless, we'll eventually be able to find a village or something. Then we can ask for some directions." When I had first arrived at Dragon Empire, I had used exactly this tactic whenever I had gotten lost.

Jiyan smiled and said, "It would be best if we never find the correct path, then you'll never leave my side."

I lightly stroked her long pale-blue hair and smiled as I said, "I don't want to part with you either, but....."

Jiyan put a finger on my lips and said, "I understand. Let's eat something first, then we'll pack our things and depart."

.....

Three days later we finally emerged from the central forest and two days after that..... we were met with awe-inspiring sight: before us lay a magnificent city of the Demon race, similar, if not larger, in size than any of those in the Dragon Empire.

"What do we do, should we enter or not?" Jiyan looked at me and asked.

I laughed bitterly, "With our human characteristics, we'll immediately be caught after entering!"

Jiyan replied, "What characteristics do Demons have?"

I looked at her, then blankly replied, "I think there has to be characteristics, but I'm not too sure."

Jiyan said with a complacent smile, "You don't know, but I do."

"You know?"

"Of course. I'm a talented girl after all. From their outer appearances alone, it's very difficult to differentiate high level Demons from humans. Only their skin is much whiter than a human's. The highest class Demon, the royal Demon clan, have purple eyes. Normally high levelled demons aren't very different from humans."

I suddenly realized, "You're so white, pretending to be a Demon shouldn't be a problem. But I..." My skin just couldn't be described as white, it was a completely copper color.

Jiyan laughed, "You're so stupid. Have you forgotten your own Fallen Angel transformation? Even if you don't transform, your eyes are already a dark purple, even though it's not very pure. Overcoming such minor complications shouldn't be that hard."

Right, I am descended from the blood of the royal Demon clan after all. It seemed like being a mixed-blood also had its advantages. "Then we just enter like this?"

Jiyan replied excitedly, "Of course. To be able to play in the Demon clan, this is too awesome." Her mannerism was completely like that of a little girl.

"Let's go, Black Dragon, we'll go check out the Demon Clan."

At first glance the Demon city seemed no different than a city of the Dragon Empire, other than the occasional noble demon walking by with leashed Demon beasts. The people around us all looked at us with strange eyes, some were even a little scared. Did I come here to kill the Demon Emperor, what's there to be afraid of? Jiyan was very excited, as she leaned on strong arm pointing at the surrounding scenery, not having the slightest sense of the danger at being in a foreign country.

"Jiyan, have you noticed that they look kind of scared of us?"

“I noticed long ago, what’s so strange about it? They must have taken you as a Demon Aristocrat. Don’t you know? According to the historical data gathered in the Empire, hierarchy is very important in demon clan. Their sense of hierarchy is even stronger than Dragon Empire’s, even being one rank higher gives you the power to crush people to death. It’s because of this system that the demon clan isn’t very united as a whole, and that’s why they never really developed.”

I looked at the tattered clothing I was wearing and laughed wrily, “With such sorry appearances, what kind of aristocrats could we be.”

Jiyan seemed to remember that even her underwear had been used as bandages for my wounds, and her face blushed red as she leaned against my body, not saying anything.

“Can we use gold coins amongst the Demons?”

Jiyan quietly replied, “It should be ok. Currency isn’t differentiated by race, it should be the same everywhere.”

“Then we should first find a place to stay, and properly clean ourselves up. We can’t possibly pretend to be aristocrats in these rags.”

Jiyan pointed to a the building just ahead of us, and said “Lay-Lay, look. Isn’t that building an inn?

I realized that I had long since gotten used to the way she addressed me. Ever since we left the forest, she insisted on calling me like this. Saying it is more endearing, Leaving me no choice, but to give into her request. The way Jiyan now stuck to me didn’t lose in the slightest to how Jisue did, and although I didn’t know what the future held, I really enjoyed the days I spent with her. Somewhere deep in my heart, I was also reluctant to separate from her...

“Welcome, what services do you need, Milord?”

TL note: Ah Xiang is Layson, in a closer way.

I returned to my original, cold appearance, and said plainly, “Give us two rooms.”

The server trembled with fear. "Yes, yes. Please follow me Milord. However, we only have one high class room left. It's a suite. Milord have a look...."

I furrowed my brows and said, "Am I that frightening? If it's only one room, then I'll take one room." Either way, Jiyan and I couldn't do anything. Living together would be fine.

Jiyan lightly pinched me, but she didn't protest.

"No... no of co...course you're not, Milord.." The waiter looked terrified, so I didn't say anything, as he brought us to the luxurious suite. The floor of the entire room was carpeted by the fur of some exotic animal that was very soft and comfortable to step on and the walls were hung with a variety of paintings. The suite could only be described as magnificent. As you entered, there is the living room with a large and thick sofa, looking very comfortable to sit on, and on the opposite wall there is a huge decorative fireplace. In the back room, huge beds accounted for about half the space, and decorations made of different colored gemstones adorned the entire room.

Even though she is a Duke's daughter, Jiyan looked a bit dumbfounded, "Lay-Lay, we don't need to be so luxurious, do we?"

I laughed, "This is nothing, isn't living a bit more comfortably a good thing? I don't care about the money. This will do."

The server cautiously asked, "Are you satisfied with the place, Milord?"

I nodded, "This will do quite nicely. Do you have any tailor shops nearby? We just returned from the frontlines, as you can tell from our ragged appearances."

The server hurriedly replied, "Yes, yes, yes. I'll bring over a tailor later to help Milord make two sets of clothes. Would that be fine, Milord?"

The treatment that nobility receive really isn't bad at all, everything is so much easier. I think I shall become a master, just this once. In a cold voice I said, "Well then, it's settled. Get us something to eat, make it delectable, understand?"

“Understood. This servant understands. This one will immediately go and prepare it.”

His attentive and thoughtful services has made me feel very comfortable, so I threw him a gold coin and said, “This is your reward. Move quickly. We’ve come a long way, so we would like to rest early. As for my horse, I put him in your stable. Just throw some good hay beside him, there’s no need to groom him. My horse has a bad temper, thus I will do it myself tomorrow.”

The waiter held the coin and looked at me helplessly “Milord, this one can’t accept this coin, just the honour of being able to serve milord is more than enough reward.”

“Enough nonsense, just accept the coin I gave to you. I’m not like the other nobility, understand?”

The servant was so surprised for a moment that it was obvious he hadn’t seen a nobility like me before. He didn’t dare to say anything else. He turned, and left the room.

Watching him leave, I said to Jiyan, “You were right, the hierarchy here is really noticeable. I didn’t even say any harsh words and the servant was scared out of his wits!”

Jiyan puckered her face in a smile and said, “With your cold look, no one in the Dragon Empire would dare to offend you, don’t even mention here.” She turned and lay down on the large sofa, lazily stretching, and said to me with satisfaction, “Oh, it’s so comfortable, you have to try it too!”

I forcefully held back my urge to kiss her, sat down beside her with a smile, and said, “The environment here is pretty good, I hope our identities aren’t exposed too soon. When I put Black Dragon in the stable just now I asked for directions. The fort is just over 300 miles journey from here. We can take it easy for a couple more days, so let’s rest for two more days before I send you home.”

Jiyan smiled and said “Okay~okay, I also want to learn more about the local customs and practices around here.” I could see that she was happy from the bottom of her heart. KNOCK, KNOCK, KNOCK. The knocking

came from the door. I went to it, and grabbed Black Sable on the way, you need to be careful when you're in foreign places. Opening the door, I let out a breath of relief: it was room service.

Three people came in, preceded by the previous servant, and put the things down. "Milord, here's some food and undergarments. These people are the tailors." the servant said.

The tailors were obviously higher rank than the servant, considering the respectful manner in which he had introduced them. One of the tailors walked forward and said, "My Lord, I would like to take My Lord's measurements now, if that is agreeable with My Lord?"

I nodded my head and threw Black Sable aside. The tailor was very quick and with deft speed he took our measurements. I reminded him, "Choose high quality cloths for this lady. As for me, I want a warrior's attire, understand?"

"This servant understands. This servant will now leave your esteemed selves to your rest.", he said and then left.

Thanks to having clean undergarments to wear, we were finally able to groom ourselves properly, and there is nothing more comfortable than a nice hot bath to accomplish this. After changing into her new, clean undergarments Jiyana merely ate few bites of food before worming her way into the huge bed and fell asleep.

Originally, I also wanted to sleep in the bed, but was driven out by a red-faced Jiyana. Thus, I lay on the couch, eating delicious and delicate desserts, relaxing quite a lot.

.....

Jiyana and I sat in the hall, looking at each other and we could not help but laugh. I was wearing a black warrior's garment with a cloak attached with a red jewel to my chest, along with a black bandana, which also had the same jewels, but smaller, embedded on it. Jiyana explained black is the most royal color amongst the Demon Clan. It must be because they thought that I am one of the highest ranked of the nobility. The tailor's eyesight was pretty good, he gave Jiyana a gray sewn dress which

complimented her light blue hair. It made her look both noble and elegant, yet simple and natural, and when Jiyan first changed into it I was dumbstruck for a whole minute.

As the saying goes: fine feathers make fine birds, meaning that apparel makes the man. This proved to be true, for after we had changed into our new clothes, we easily passed for a noble Demon couple.

Originally, the innkeeper was ready to give us a private room, but it was decided we'll dine in the hall under my request. We're only having a meal; why be so nit picky about it? In order to cater to Jiyan's tastes, I deliberately ordered some light dishes. After all, being used to eating just fruit, it's hard to stomach meat and fish.

The quality of this inn could be considered high, and there weren't too many diners. Only about 20 percent of the available space was being occupied by diners. Most of them were high class Demons, and at the entrance I noticed a sign saying: "Low class Demons may not enter." With this it can be seen just how deep the sense of hierarchy is embedded into every Demon's heart.

Compared to the Dragon Empire's dishes, the Demon city's dishes weren't as sophisticated, but compared to Beast clan dishes, they are much better. It's a different kind of taste. Of course I am still the same as before no matter the cooking; I ate just as a cow would chew goodpasture or like like a tiger or wolf would devour it's prey: voraciously.

Jiyan had evidently received a high class education since she was young, because although she ate quite a lot, she still looked as elegant and charming from the beginning till the end. "Layson, eat slowly, don't forget that you're a noble now."

"Nobles also eat, maybe I'll do that after I'm half-full." While we were eating, a group of people came in, looking about twenty something, well-dressed, domineering, and arrogant. "Innkeeper, give us ten rooms! Also, give us the presidential suite that our Lord stayed in last time, quickly get them ready!"

Seeing their fierce-looking appearances, the innkeeper's face paled

under the illumination of the magic light “I apologize patrons. We still have ten rooms, but the highest class room is being occupied by another honoured guest, you see, can I....”

“What’s the problem, just tell them to get out, our Lord is a high class noble, an inherited count, is he someone you can dare to offend?”

Jiyan smiled at me and whispered, “I think our room is the one they want, if there’s no other way, let’s give it to them.”

I laughed, “Aren’t you the one who worships power? This is the time when I should protect you, how can I just give it away?”

Jiyan stared angrily, “Layson, this isn’t the Dragon Empire, so we aren’t safe here, try to stay out of trouble as much as possible. Do you think I’m someone that fails to see the bigger picture? You look down on me too much.”

Her cute looks made me a little besotted as I looked at her, “But I can’t give it away either, isn’t this the best chance to show off the power of a noble? Just sit back and watch.”

At this moment, one of the Demons had grabbed the collar of the innkeeper; about to hit him.

I lightly flicked my fingers and a chopstick flew out, stabbing into the hand of the Demon. The Demon let go due to the pain, blood running down his left hand, and cursed “Who dares attack me! Do you not wish to live anymore!?”

I stood up, tidying my clothes, and rumbled, “It was me. I’m the one who doesn’t wish to live. Why? Will my lord send me to hell?”

“Why, you little.....”When he saw my clothes, he stopped cursing and eyed me warily.

I walked up to him, narrowed my eyes at him and suddenly slapped him, sending him flying, “You imbecile, how dare you speak to me in such a disrespectful manner. Where’s your master? Send him out.” I am pretending to be a noble, naturally I should be more arrogant so that it’s worthy of my identity.

A sexless voice called out, “I am his master; you should see who the master is before hitting the dog, are you trying to insult me? Which house are you from?” The guards got out of the way one after another and a bloated middle-aged man with blonde hair walked out. From his appearance, he is definitely a male, but that voice just now...a layer of goosebumps rose on my neck.

When he saw my face, his eyes twinkled, and sweetly he said “Whose son is this, oh, he’s so handsome quick let me get a better look.”

Just as I had thought, he is one those people with weird interest. Jiyan then came to my side and, after seeing how embarrassed I was, she fought back her smile and said: “What do you think you are? How dare you speak to our Lord like that.”

When the middle-aged man saw Jiyan, his face was filled with a combination of envy and disgust. After hearing Jiyan’s rebuke, he puffed out his flabby chest and said, “I am count Swist·Feizen, a count from a noble and distinguished lineage. You’re nothing! I’m speaking to your master, how dare you interrupt me?”

When I heard him insult Jiyan in this manner, I couldn’t help but lose my temper. I was about to do something violent, when Jiyan lightly tugged on my sleeve and said with a smile, “I’m not nothing, and neither is my Lord. My Lord’s name is Lay Lucifer. Don’t tell me you haven’t heard of him?”

After listening to Jiyan, the immature middle-aged count had a sudden change in his expression, he muttered “Lay·Lucifer, Lay·Lucifer, you’re royalty?”

Jiyan put on an arrogant look and said, “Now that you know, get lost, if you disturb my Lord’s eating time any further, he will slaughter your entire family, and leave this ‘inherited’ count unable to produce an heir to ‘inherit’.”

Seeing such dramatic changes, I watched to see what he would do. The fat on Swist·Feizen’s jiggled and he managed to say, “Who here can prove that he is who he says he is?”

As the hero in this drama, I must play my part. I took off my cloak and said with a deep voice, "Jiyan, move out of the way. Darkness condense in thy Soul. To have failed is to have been freed. Awaken! Myriad of magical powers that hath slumbered in mine Blood." An intense black aura seeped out from my body and the whole inn filled with an eerie feeling.

Jiyan's face expressed a glimpse of discontent and she took off to take shelter. My long, pale green hair instantly turned pitch-black, a pair of symbolic Fallen Angel's wings split open my new garments and spread from my back, lightly flapping. A black shadow flashed, and I began squeezing the fat man's throat. Revealing a sinister smile, I said sombrely "Does this provide the prove you seek?"

All of Swist·Feizen's underlings prostrated themselves after my transformation, looking at me with eyes begging for mercy, while their bodies trembled non-stop. Due to Swist·Feizen being choked by me, his voice had became a bit hoarse when he spoke with a trembling voice, "I believe you now, I believe you now! Lord Fallen Angel, please have mercy!"

Fallen Angels are extremely rare even among the royals, they have the absolute right to kill any among the Demon Clan. Removing him from him from his position as Count is as easy as pie.

I loosened my hand and threw him aside, as I said coldly, "I just risked my life in the frontline, but a good-for nothing piece of trash like you is trying to dictate me. If you dare offend me again, I will take your life." Black mist veiled my body. All of the Demons that were present knew: this is the omen before a Fallen Angel is about to take action.

Swist·Feizen did not have the slightest intention of resisting. He kowtowed like a of pound garlic and begged, "Lord, please spare me. Little servant had been both blind and derelict, please spare this little servant's lowly life. Killing trash like me will only dirty your noble hands....."

I suddenly felt a burst of dizziness, my injuries was just recently healed and this transformation burdened me greatly. Since it had served its purpose, there's no need to show off any longer. get up and answer."

TL note: 'get up' and roll share the same character (word). It's the same

for ‘get lost’

“Yes, yes.” Swist·Feizen literally rolled on the floor whilst standing up, making it difficult for me and Jiyan not to laugh.

I pointed at the clothes on my back and said, “In order to confirm my identity for this “master”, I have ruined the clothes that I just had tailored, as well as my appetite. How will you fix this?”

Swist·Feizen understandingly said in a servile manner, “Little servant will compensate you for it, little servant will compensate you for it, little servant will definitely buy the best set of clothes for you. Ah, no, ten sets, guaranteed to satisfy.”

Chapter 4: Royal Brothers

I nodded, satisfied, and once again donned my cloak asking, “What is your position in the city?”

Wiping the sweat from his forehead, Swist·Feizen answered, “This lowly person’s uncle is the Baron of the city. As his humble servant I have attained the position of Head Quartermaster.

The position of Head Quartermaster must yield a great amount of profit. I placed my hand on Jiyan’s shoulders and said, “Your position isn’t bad. I bet you’ve scraped together quite a lot of money these past years.”

“I dare not...I dare not...This insignificant servant dares not to...This lowly servant is Head Quartermaster in name only...”

Maliciously, I responded, “Dare not? Dare not do what?!? You already dared to hit me! What is it you dare not do? You even dared to scold my companion just now! You will compensate me for the emotional distress you have caused. As it’s not convenient for me to carry gold coins on my person, bring me twenty of the highest grade gemstones. And, as you should know, those of the royal family are exceptionally gifted at appraising the quality of gems and distinguishing between those that are counterfeit and those that are authentic. If you dare try to deceive me, you had best beware my fury!”

Looking mournful, Swist·Feizen replied, “Your grace, please...have mercy. This humble and insignificant servant isn’t that wealthy. Instead of gems, could this lowly servant perhaps gift you a few of the best quality beauties? Would that suffice?”

I exploded, “HMPH! You plan on gifting me your leftovers? Enough nonsense! Do you have the gems? We can negotiate if you don’t. Let’s say you pay one gem less than requested, I chop off one of your arms. Two gems less, I chop off both of your arms. Four less and I take all four of your limbs; and five less, well...” I looked between his legs with a demonic expression. “If you plan to stay in one piece, you will do as I say. Now roll out of my sight! If I haven’t received anything by noon tomorrow, then I’ll

go to your mansion myself to retrieve my tithe.”

TL note: as I have previously mentioned get lost could also mean roll out

As Swist·Feizen realised that he didn’t have the slightest option of negotiation, he lay down on the floor and, with great chagrin, rolled toward the door with his underlings following in the same manner.

Suddenly I had a thought, “Wait a moment.”

Swist·Feizen stopped rolling three meters from where he had started and knelt with great trepidation. Carefully he asked, “Is...is there anything else, sir?”

I glared at him. “I came here on a special mission from his majesty. I don’t want any additional people to know about this incident. Understand? Not even your uncle. Also, if you ever disturb the commoners in this city again, I will cut down both you AND your uncle on behalf of his majesty. The seat and power of a Baron is something that many people have their eyes set on.”

“This lowly servant understands! This insignificant servant understands!”

“If you understand, then get on with the rolling!” As we watched them rolling awkwardly out of the entrance, Jiyan couldn’t contain herself any longer and burst out in uncontrollable laughter. I patted her back and said, “Enough...don’t laugh like that. You might choke.”

Jiyan’s breathing was coarse and rough but she was eventually able to stabilize and calm her breathing. “Ah Xiang, why don’t you become a pirate? Your bounties wouldn’t be small. I never would have guessed that you would have such accomplished blackmailing and extortion skills would be this good. Look at them! They’re rolling like turtles! I’m going to laugh myself to death.” While speaking, Jiyan began laughing again. There was nothing I could do about her.

By the time Swiss·Feizen and his cohorts had all left the inn, my mind had returned to more immediate matters. I turned to the inn’s director and said, “Innkeeper, my clothes are torn. Have the tailor make another

set for me. I'll pay for it when I settle up the rest of the bill."

Waving his hand, the innkeeper exclaimed, "No need! No need! To be able to serve a Lord Fallen Angel is an honor." It was only at this moment that I noticed everyone – waiters, inn attendants, and customers – were looking at me with reverence in their eyes. The high class demons that were previously seated and eating had also stopped and stood up. Fallen Angel. Royal Family. These titles were convenient to be able to use.

I didn't push the subject. "We'll talk about this later. My companion and I have yet to finish our meals; have someone deliver them to our room. In addition, if that stupid pig delivers anything here, send it directly to my room. I do not wish to see his disgusting face again." When I thought of his androgynous, hermaphroditic voice, I couldn't help but feel nauseous; luckily, I hadn't eaten many oily things that day. Jiyan experienced stomach spasms from her uncontrolled laughter as I pulled her with me to our room.

"Enough! Stop laughing! If you continue laughing excessively, you will get wrinkles and will have aged prematurely before I return for your hand." The sharpness of my words caused Jiyan to abruptly stop laughing. Even though it was rather satisfying dealing with that fat pig, I understood one thing clearly: the chances of my identity being exposed had grown.

Looking at Jiyan I said, "Miss, you need to figure out a solution. What if that fat pig investigates and finds out my identity? What would I say then, hmm?!?" I looked at Jiyan with a condescending smile as she giggled a little more and then I continued, "I guess I could say that I'm an illegitimate child of the Demon Emperor, right?"

Jiyan's eyes brightened as she replied, "That's actually a good idea! It's decided."

I involuntarily responded, "What?!? You think that's a good idea?"

Jiyan smiled. "Silly Lay-Lay, just listen to me. Royalty has a very strong sense of etiquette and superiority. If not, there wouldn't be such an obvious division of the classes. You can get away with saying that you're

an illegitimate child of the Demon Emperor, so long as you say that it was a common woman that gave birth to you. Women lacking royal blood are not allowed to marry the Demon Emperor nor enter the palace; a situation described as “maintaining tradition.” As long as you do not meet with those closest to the throne, your true identity is safe. After all, who would dare to ask the Demon Emperor how many illegitimate children he has sired? Your ability to transform into a Fallen Angel is the strongest proof of your identity. As you well know, only royalty can train and cultivate as a Fallen Angel; and only the Demon Emperor has the right to pass down the training techniques of a Fallen Angel to illegitimate children.”

After listening to what Jiyan had to say, I finally understood the true magnitude of my condescending remarks. “Your thoughts are rather impressive, although it seems that you’ve fabricated my father’s identity.”

Rolling her eyes Jiyan responded, “Do you feel insulted having the Demon Emperor as your father? This matter is decided.” I never would have thought that my smart-ass comment would allow us to avoid a major disaster.

.....

It was late at night and only a sparse scattering of lights could be seen throughout the city. Jiyan and I stood on the highest balcony, mesmerized by the radiance of the stars in the dark sky. “Lay-lay, how many stars do you think exist in the sky? They’re all so pretty, just sparkling and twinkling like little diamonds strewn about this resplendent scene.”

Embracing Jiyan from behind I smiled and replied, “I am astounded! Our talented little miss doesn’t know how many stars are in the night sky. How could I, a lowly commoner with little talent and even less learning, know?”

Jiyan pinched my arm and said, “I don’t like it when you do that. I won’t allow you to speak about yourself in such a manner. My.....can only be the best.”

I teased her with my next question, “Your what?” Jiyan didn’t bother to reply and I didn’t persist. We enjoyed the night’s gentle wind as we

basked in the moon's pure radiance and silently counted the stars in the sky for much of the night.

"It's gotten very late. Let's go back inside and go to bed." Only after having said the words did I fully grasp the ambiguity in them. Thankfully, Jiyan didn't seem to fully hear my request and she responded, "I really don't want to go inside yet. Stay here with me a bit longer, okay? I don't know how long it'll be before I'll be able to experience this with you again and it feels so natural gazing at the stars with you. Embraced by your arms, I feel so warm and safe."

"Warm? Definitely, but I wouldn't say safe. Although I am able to transform into a Fallen Angel, I'm still only at the first step. Compared to masters, my power and ability is insignificant. Had the demon girl that day trained harder prior to our battle, the two of us would currently be a couple in hell."

"Don't say something like that okay? You will ruin the atmosphere if you continue saying such things in such a quiet and elegant place."

"Oh? When did our Lady Jiyan, who worships power, start to dislike discussing such things? This is not like you!"

Jiyan turned her head, glared at me, and said in a huff, "Well, do you like how I am now? Or would you prefer how I was before?"

I quickly met Jiyan's anger with my charming smile. "I like everything about you. You're the school's number one beauty. If I didn't like you, then who else would I like? Anyways, it's really late. Also. let's leave as soon as we receive those items tomorrow.

Jiyan chuckled softly and said, "When I think of how badly you ridiculed that fatty, I want to laugh again – twenty gemstones of the highest quality! You gave him a rather large debt obligation."

I calmly retorted, "It's only twenty gemstones. Is that really difficult for him? I even gave him some leeway."

I couldn't help being momentarily distracted when I noticed how large my hands appeared around Jiyan's petite waist. My mind refocused when

Jiyan said, “It’s not as simple as you think. The quality and availability of gemstones isn’t the same as in the Beastman Country or the Dragon Empire. The Demon Kingdom has a place that mass produces gemstones. A gemstone produced here at low-to mid-grade quality, by Demon Clan standards, would be considered high quality if taken back to the Dragon Empire. What do you think a gemstone produced at the Demon Clan’s highest quality will look like? After frightening that fatty the way you did today, I’m really excited to see what he will bring us tomorrow.”

I smiled. “I’m not too worried about that at the moment. This breeze is so comfortable, such a cool and refreshing feeling.”

“I feel the same way, but I think I would feel very comfortable wherever I go just by remaining together with you.” I had to fight the impulse to kiss Jiyan while tightly embracing her, lest I would be sent flying again.

“Be gentle, Lay-Lay, you’re about to break my bones...” Jiyan startled me with her words causing me to loosen my hold.

Smiling at me, Jiyan teased, “Silly, even though it hurt a little when you were hugging me, I felt so much better since it felt as if you were a part of me.”

“Calm down, Jiyan, my sweet. The hours is late. We need to be ready to leave early tomorrow for our journey.” This time Jiyan didn’t say anything; acquiescing, she let me carry her in my arms into the room.

The big bed in our room naturally went to Jiyan to sleep in; I was left to sleep on the sofa. Fortunately, for me, the sofa was big and soft allowing me to sleep comfortably.

Immediately after waking up, I went to the rooftop to cultivate my Demonic Arts and exercise. Upon my return, I could see that the hotel servants had already delivered a large breakfast. Jiyan and I were able to eat without reserve.

“Jiyan, is that dish good? It must be good since you are eating it so fast.”

Jiyan was barely able to talk as she stuffed her mouth with the food in front of her and replied, “Of course it’s delicious! All of the food tastes so

good. Come, try some of this too before it's gone." As I was about to sit down next to Jiyan, I heard knocking at the door.

"Finish eating, I'll see who's at the door." I left the food to Jiyan and walked toward the door. As I opened the door I was greeted by the fake smile and fat face of Swist-Feizen, a delicate box in his hands.

While frowning I said, "Did you forget my warning at the inn lobby? I very clearly stated that I did not wish to see you again." Swist-Feizen's smile grew larger as he responded. "Lord, I am sorry but my uncle had two guests at his mansion that, like you, are royalty. After hearing that you were staying at this inn, they told me that they would like to meet you and bade me take them to you.

The shock of this information reverberated throughout my body. It was too late to blame Swist-Feizen for revealing my hidden location so, maintaining my composure, I asked, "Oh? Who are they? Where are they?"

As Swist-Feizen moved out of the way I could see two average-sized, lean, middle-aged men. These men looked so similar that I assumed they were twins; luckily they were easily distinguishable as the one on the left had a jovial face and smile, while the other continually maintained a solemn face and grimace. As they both looked at me, I noticed an extreme and violent intent shining equally in their eyes. The one on the left scoffed, "Why aren't you asking us in?" With a glance I could tell that it was going to be difficult to handle this situation; but what was meant to be, would be, and with commanding voice I acquiesced, "Please, come in."

I turned and walked back into our suite giving Jiyan, who was still eating, a knowing look. Our three guests followed me into the suite in a line; one of the twins, being last in line, closed the door softly behind him. I furrowed my brows and looked at the brothers. "Who are the two of you?"

Again, it was the smiling man that spoke, "I think the real question is: As a Fallen Angel, HOW could you not know us? Our father is His Majesty's head Imperial Escort. Other than His Majesty, our father is the

only royalty to have achieved the level of a four-winged Fallen Angel. In addition, we brothers are royalty that are also part of the Fallen Angel Pantheon and His Majesty is our uncle. I am Gwynn-Lucifer and this is my younger brother, Griffin-Lucifer. We had thought that one of our brothers was here. It had never occurred to us that there would be someone who would dare impersonate one of our sacred pantheon. Speak now, who in the world are you? WHY do you pretend to be a Fallen Angel?"

I laughed coldly and replied, "What makes you think I'm an imposter?"

Gwynn-Lucifer coldly retorted with a snort. "Isn't the fact that the two of us have never hear about you enough? With the exception of His Majesty and the preceding Emperor, our Fallen Legion Pantheon has 38 acolytes in total. I can name each acolyte, one by one, yet I've never heard of Lay-Lucifer. How can that not be enough evidence for you?"

"Your thought processes are flawed. Of course it is not enough. Based on the fact that you have never seen me before you say that I am an imposter; well, I can use that same logic and say that I have never seen either of you and that you both are imposters."

The Gu brothers' faces turned solemn, their lapels ruffled without so much as a gust of wind, and a powerfully imposing pressure firmly locked me in place. Sensing what was occurring, Jiyan slipped to the side of the room. She knew that if she tried to help at this moment, not only would she not be any help, she would make matters worse. Condensing my dark magic while resisting the pressure they were exerting on me, I thought that if these brothers were, in fact, Fallen Angels then, with their current formidable display of power, I would likely be unable to handle one of them, let alone two. I was certain that these brothers, being twins, would be able to share their thoughts, making it possible to create powerful combination attacks; if I plunged into a fight recklessly, I was certain of the fact that I would not escape alive.

Keeping this in mind, I presented them with an ice-cold smile and said, "The two of you don't need to be in a rush to fight. Observe. Darkness condense in thy soul. To have fallen is to be freed. Awaken! Myriad of magical powers that hath slumbered in mine blood!" In order to convince

them, I transformed.

The Gu brothers were surprised by my complete Fallen Angel transformation. In my current state I was instantly able to force back the pressure that the brothers were imposing on me.

With a wave Black Sable flew in to my hand, my face reflecting the alertness of my mind. Small objects were blown and scattered around the room by the intense, dark aura emitting from my body; the effects of my body's transformation were highly obvious. Due to the overwhelming pressure being exerted from my dark aura, the brothers transformed simultaneously.

At that moment, there were three Fallen Angels in a small room. Comparing the opposing two against myself, I knew that they would have greater power, speed, and control over their transformation since they have had a greater amount of time to hone their skills since their initial transformation. Luckily, the pressure exerted by the brothers, in their transformed state, only minimally impacted me due to the similar nature of our powers.

Unfortunately, Jiyan and that fat pig weren't as lucky as me. The combined power of the dark auras emanating from the three of us created a pressure strong enough to press those two against the wall without any ability to move.

With the wave of my hand, I sent both of them out of the room. As Jiyan went through the doorway, I began to shut the door; the fat pig hadn't made it through the doorway before it had fully closed causing him to burst through it, leaving a big round hole in the door. I made certain Jiyan didn't receive any damage, that is all that mattered.

Griffin·Lucifer, who had been silent up to this point, finally spoke. "I never thought that you could actually transform into a Fallen Angel. You obviously cannot be an imposter. It is possible that you could be a royal that has newly completed the transformation; but how is it I have never heard of anyone named Lay·Lucifer?!?"

With a sinister smile I answered, "Since both elder brothers can also

transform, it is obvious that we aren't outsiders. How about this, let me show you something. As I spoke, I handed Black Sable over to them without any hesitation. Some of their wariness subsided with my willingness to surrender my weapon.

With a look of uncertainty, Gwynn took Black Sable from me and began to look it over meticulously. Astonished, Gwynn exclaimed, "This...this is the Divine Sword of Slaughter – Black Sable! How is it in your hands? Didn't this sword go missing aeons ago? I've only seen mention of it in ancient books and records." Gwynn stroked Black Sable with admiration as he finished speaking. The admiration slowly filling his eyes with greed, which may not let him part with such a treasure.

Divine Sword of Slaughter? What does that mean? Isn't Black Sable one of the seven great swords? The only reason I showed it to the brothers was that Teacher Zhuang said it was a sword taken from the Demon Clan. I smiled and said, "That's right. This is that very same sword. His majesty, himself, presented this sword to me as a gift; unfortunately, I am unable to utilize its full power."

To avoid further questions, or the brothers further testing my knowledge of the sword, I had to give them information they would believe otherwise I never would have divulged such a weakness. With a perplexed face Gwynn said, "His Majesty passed this sword down to you? Impossible! If this sword was actually in His Majesty's hands, he would have passed it down a direct descendent – his successor. And of course you wouldn't be able to fully use Black Sable at this point; to be able to wield its full power you would have to reach the 9th tier in the Demonic Arts, thus transforming into a Fallen Angel with six wings. Absurdly, the humans gave it the title of one of the seven great swords without even knowing it was originally the sword of the Demon God.

I could tell that the presence of Black Sable had greatly shocked both brothers. While speaking, it was obvious that Gwynn had already lost a great deal of his composure "Elder brother, are you done looking at Black Sable? Could you return it?"

Gwynn carefully tucked away the sword and replied. "I can return it to

you on the condition that you must tell me the reason why His Majesty would gift such a sword to you.”

The brothers simultaneously expressions changed to that of amusement that displayed the full intent of the situation they had created: If you don’t tell us what we want to know, we will NOT return this sword. Fortunately, the hostile auras that were previously present had dissipated.

I feigned a long, drawn-out sigh and then asked, “Do you really want me to tell you?”

“Of course!” exclaimed the Gu brothers.

“Well, in that case, I want you both to swear to never leak out what I’ve said today. Otherwise, if his Majesty finds out, I’m afraid even your father will not be able to keep you alive.”

The Gu brothers looked at each other and said at the same time, “I Gwynn·Lucifer / Griffin·Lucifer swear before our Lord Demon God: If I ever leak anything Lay·Lucifer tells us today, I am willing to suffer the pain of ten thousand demons entering my body, die by having my soul absorbed and my spirit seized.

Luckily for me, the brothers had sworn by the most powerful Demon oath that a Demon could use. To further garner their trust and make them fully believe what I was about to reveal, I had to be certain to put forth an act that was worthy of such a cursed oath. I nodded with satisfaction and said, “Since we no longer have to fight let’s release our transformations. Younger brother has only just cultivated his Demonic Arts to the 4th tier and maintaining it is rather tiring.” For my own benefit, and waning strength from holding the transformation, I had to make this request. With the transformation released, I couldn’t help but notice my clothes were torn apart again – poor me.

Seeing my initiative in returning to my original form, the brothers naturally released their transformation, as well, as their trust in me had increased further. Raising my hand, I gestured politely for them to take a seat. Taking a seat on the sofa, I shouted so that those in the hallway could hear, “Both of you can come in now!”

Jiyan and that fatty, Swist·Feizen, heard my voice and walked in one-by-one. Swist·Feizen was bleeding from his nose and mouth, much of his clothing was ripped, his hair was a mess, and he looked like he had been put through the ringer. When he saw the three of us sitting together peacefully he could tell that he was about to be in greater trouble.

As Swist·Feizen entered, I made certain that he was not disappointed and began the callous ridiculing. "Hmph! Did you think I was only blowing smoke up your ass?!? If that's the case, well then...let's begin!"

Swist·Feizen prostrated on the floor and trembled with fear. Presenting the box in his hands he implored, "Lord, this insignificant servant has prepared what sir wanted; this has exhausted my entire fortune. Please spare this lowly life."

Gwynn said, "My worthy brother, this person's uncle and us are on good terms. For our sake, how about you spare his life." The two brothers were getting progressively more polite towards me, although it was obvious they still had some doubts. Thankfully, my transformation and the presence of Black Sable had proven to them that I was not their enemy.

I shot a glance at the fatty and said plainly, "Since elder brother has appealed for mercy on this thing's behalf, I will spare him this once. But heed me well!" Turning to fully face Swist·feizen, I continued, "If you ever offend me again, I will slowly roast you on a spit like the pig you are. Now, put down what you're carrying and roll out of here."

"After watching Swist·Feizen literally roll out like a rubber ball, I gestured to Jiyan to close the door. Unfortunately, doing so didn't have much of an effect since there was a huge hole in the door. I reached out and lifted the box while telling the brothers, "Brothers, please take some for yourselves. This is the compensation that fat pig has payed to me for my clothes."

Griffin replied, "No need. Please just tell us your relation to His Majesty, and be quick about it; we have urgent business to which we need to attend."

Griffin appeared to be the more serious of the two. Although Gwynn

seemed to be the leader, Griffin's cognitive thoughts ran a bit deeper. These two brothers could summon the winds and command the rain within the Demon Clan if they so wished; naturally they wouldn't care for mundane things, such as compensation for clothing.

I casually threw the box to Jiyan and introduced her. "This is my fiance, she knows everything about me. There's no need to be cautious around her."

I put on my poker face and said in a serious tone, "Elder brothers, please remember your oath just now. I hope you will not laugh at me. I'm an illegitimate child of his majesty that was born outside the palace." This sentence immediately caused the two of them to stare at each other with bewilderment, revealing expressions of disbelief. Presumably, the Demon Emperor was a very principled person.

"To tell the truth, His Majesty is the person I hate the most in this world." Another heavy bomb had landed on the brothers. After listening to this, both of their expressions immediately changed from astonishment to contempt. I continued, "However, he is also the person I admire the most." With these words their expressions relaxed a bit. It was quite entertaining to watch their expressions change with every sentence. Jiyan threw me an encouraging look, it was clear that she wanted me to continue spinning my web.

My eyes glazed over as I said, "I hate him due to the fact that on a whim, he ruined my mother's life. Although she has no regrets, I cannot forgive him. And since mother is not a part of the royal family, she can never be by his side. But His Majesty felt sorry for my mother and presented me with Black Sable as a gift, calling it compensation for his misdeed."

The brothers had obviously been touched by my story, Gwynn earnestly returned Black Sable to me with both hands as he consoled me. "These are the rules set by the ancestors. You can't blame his majesty, either. If it were other royalty, I'm afraid they would have been less compassionate."

I received Black Sable and coldly snorted; responding to what he said, "What god damn rubbish. Those lousy rules were what ruined my warm home." I couldn't help but think of my real mother as I spoke. Although she had never loved me, taken care of me, nor worried about me, mother's entire life was indeed painful. She was forcefully taken by the Beast Tribe and separated from her lover. I really shouldn't hate her. "His Majesty, the ruler of our country, the head of our clan, is unable to abolish these unreasonable rules? Unable to return my mother's name? Tell me, how can I not hate him?"

With regard to this question, how could the two brothers begin to answer? Gwynn coughed dryly, concealing his own embarrassment, and, changing the topic, asked, "Then tell us, what do you admire about His Majesty?"

I sighed and responded, "His majesty has ruled the Demon Kingdom into perfect order. His skills are the best when compared with both ancient and modern rulers. As his son, I must admire him as a matter-of-fact and be proud of having such a father. However, my identity cannot be known to the world; this is the reason why I requested for both of you to swear to keep my secret. Shortly after I turned six-years-old, father came to visit us. He had brought along a copy of the Demonic Arts and, before giving them to me, gave me some instruction on proper methods. At that point, I swore to myself that I would become a powerful being. Only a being of unsurpassed power would keep father from losing face. Finally, just a few months ago, I successfully broke through the third tier and transformed into a Fallen Angel. I don't know how, but father found out about my accomplishment and came to congratulate me himself. Before departing, he gave me a secret mission, which is the reason for my presence here. As for the mission, please don't ask about it as I cannot divulge any information at the moment. His Majesty stated that this mission is of the utmost importance and highly classified. The only thing I can tell you about it is that my destination is the Dragon Empire."

After I had finished speaking, I glanced at them out of the corner of my eye, and saw that they were both thinking deeply. From the moment they

entered, they had played to my tune. There was no way that they could discover the truth. As with any good story, mine was built upon the truth; naturally it was very persuasive.

After hearing my tale, Gwynn responded, "Knowing that younger brother shares His Majesty's blood there's no reason for us to doubt any further. My brother and I are going to support the front lines. The other day, the princess was met with some difficulties and heavily injured. His Majesty has asked us to go and overlook the situation. Would you care to go? The princess is your sister, after all."

I shook my head and said, "I can't go, this mission is very important, and I cannot delay it for other trivial matters. I'm afraid she won't even admit that I am her brother. How could an illegitimate child compare to one with pure-blood? She wouldn't acknowledge me at all."

I had to hold back my laughter, I was the very person who had inflicted these heavy injuries upon my 'sister'. The serious Griffin surprised me, first patting my shoulder and then saying, "Don't be so disheartened. As long as you work hard, you will find a way. Since you have a mission we won't push you to visit her. Brother since we are headed in the same direction, why don't we travel together?"

I couldn't deny such a reasonable request and, with please, replied, "Of course! It would be a blessing for this younger brother, who was born and raised in the wilds, to receive the sage advice of his elder brothers."

"No need to be so polite, feel free to ask us anything. It is getting late, so we brothers will leave first. We'll be waiting for you at the eastern city gate at noon." The Gu brothers stood up as they spoke.

After escorting the brothers back to the inn's entrance, I watched their silhouettes disappear in the distance. When I could no longer see them, it felt as if a heavy burden had been lifted and I let out a sigh of relief. Patting me on the back, Jiyan said, "That was a close call."

I nodded and replied, "Yeah...if you hadn't set up my identity in advance, I may have had to fight them. Forget about facing both brothers, I don't even know if I could've handled one of them." As I spoke I thought of my

transformation into a Crimson Fallen Angel and how I killed White Skye. If I could successfully complete that transformation again, I might stand a chance. Unfortunately, I still cannot control my Berserk transformation; I would have to rely on my luck if I was to face them at my current level. I continued saying, “But it is better this way, they gave me some interesting information. I didn’t realise that Black Sable was a Divine Sword of Slaughter.

Jiyan smiled, “What’s so great about Divine Sword of Slaughter? Isn’t there its rival, the Divine Sword of Exorcism, to match it?”

“Divine Sword of Exorcism? What is that?” However when I looked at Jiyan, I saw that she was frozen, her hands covering her mouth, almost like a statue.

“Jiyan, what’s wrong?”

Only after hearing her name did Jiyan break out of her daze and mumble, “Just...just now...what did I say?!?”

Frowning, I asked, “Are you trying to be silly? Is there something wrong with you? You just said, ‘What’s so great about the Divine Sword of Slaughter? Isn’t there its rival, the Divine Sword of Exorcism, to match it?’ Now I am asking you, what is the Divine Sword of Exorcism?”

Jiyan shook her head and said, “I don’t know what that is either. A voice just seemed to take over after I heard your words. I couldn’t help but blurt it out. Divine Sword of Exorcism... I have no idea what that is.

Seeing the absentminded look on her face, I was reluctant to question her further. I embraced Jiyan’s shoulders and said, “Let’s go back to the room.” By the time we had made it back to the suite, Jiyan had regained her composure. With some concern, she asked, “What do you plan to do? Are we really going to go with them? What if it doesn’t work out? Let’s sneak out! If they find any flaws in our story we’ll be finished.”

Shaking my head I replied, “No, we must go with them. It is important since we will be able to gather a greater understanding of the Demon Kingdom, as a whole. More importantly, if we were to run, what would the brothers think? I am certain that they will come to the conclusion that we

were just pretending to be nobles. In such a situation, with their power and position, they would definitely send a large regiment to pursue and kill us. Our disadvantage in such a situation would be too great. At this very moment there could be people spying on us. This is why I think we must go with them; but in a very cautious manner."

Jiyan smiled, "Lay-lay, you've matured a lot. At our first meeting, I thought you were an immature brat; now you are thinking things through, thoroughly. You are right; I'll listen to you. I'll go pack our belongings."

I touched my face, and helplessly thought: Am I really more mature? I am only 17 years old. I'm not aging prematurely, am I?

Chapter 5: Departing Home

While I sat on the couch feeling bored, Jiyan went to the bedroom to pack our things. As I lazily looked around the living room, the box that Swist·Feizen had brought caught my eye. I wondered if Jiyan had seen its contents yet?

I didn't even know what that fatty had brought. The black wooden box was made very delicately; in the center was a red gem, the sides had intricate carvings etched on it, and there were metal covering the edges and corners. Could the box be pure gold? I looked everywhere but I couldn't find a way to open the box. God dammit, isn't this bloody fatty making things too difficult for me?

Jiyan's voice interrupted me as I was about to crush the box with chi. "Lay-lay, I've packed our belongings; we can leave at any time." As she finished speaking, Jiyan appeared carrying a backpack that was more-than-likely filled with our tailor-made clothing in addition to some essential items we would need on the journey. When Jiyan saw me, she asked curiously, "Um...what are you doing?"

"I want to see what that pig brought; but no matter what I try, I can't open the box. I am so frustrated that I am about to break it open."

After hearing what I said, Jiyan quickly ran over and snatched the box away from me. "You're really stupid. Let me open it for you. It's such a beautiful box, it would be a pity if you were to break it."

I smiled at her and responded, "Do you like the box? If you do, then I'll give it to you. Perhaps a few gemstones, too? Girls love those the most."

Rolling her eyes, Jiyan retorted, "Do you think of me as one of those common women? All people desire beautiful things, it's only natural; but I don't see gems as anything precious, I prefer it when there is an inherent and natural beauty. Now watch, this is how you open this type of box." As Jiyan spoke, she gently pressed the red gem in the center of the box, then turned it counter-clockwise, and finally pressed the gem again. Kecha! The box-top separated at the center and swung open.

The entire room was immersed in the rainbow luster from the various gems the instant the box opened. We could see seven distinct, dazzling, gorgeous colors of light shining out of the box; my vision blurred due to the intensity. Staring at the wonders present inside the box, Jiyan and I were completely astounded.

The interior of the box was covered in a blue velvet flocking, which had twenty small indentations pressed into it. Each indentation caressed a single gem. With a glance, I counted: five black gems, three red, three blue, three yellow, three green and three purple. I had seen gems in the past, but I had never seen such brilliant and lustrous ones.

“Jiyan, how are they so bright?! I was momentarily blinded.”

While lightly fondling each gem, Jiyan said, “Amazing, that fatty must be spitting out blood. These are the highest grade gems I’ve ever seen; I am certain they are top-tier. Look at this red one, it’s Bloodstone. I don’t think that such pure Bloodstone has ever been seen in the palace of the Dragon Empire; it provides clarity of mind by refreshing and restoring ones consciousness. I would guess that this blue one is cultivated; although I’ve never seen it before, I’ve heard that the Demon Kingdom has an extraordinarily solid gemstone called Diamond, with the Blue Diamond being the highest grade among all Diamonds. That’s all I know about diamonds. This yellow stone is also uncommon. Look at its crystalline body; I am unsure, but I think this yellow stone is Orpiment. I can’t remember if that’s the proper name or not, so I will just call it that. The imperial Jade seal used by the Emperor of the Dragon Empire is carved from Orpiment; but it doesn’t have the purity of the few in front of us. That green one is Turquoise; I know its name but not its purpose.

“This purple one is a Crystal of the highest grade that stores magic; among all the gems present, it’s probably the most practical. With these three purple Crystals, someone could store a supply of magic power in excess of ten times the magic power I currently possess. If I had them, I doubt I would ever need to worry about running out of magic power. While these gems can’t raise the ability level of the user or the strength of the magic used, they would allow me to continuously use magic power

at my current level for quite some time before being completely emptied. Out of all these gems, the only one I am unfamiliar with is the Black one; it isn't Crystal nor is it Jade. I wonder what it's purpose is. The Black gem is probably a special product of the Demon Kingdom."

I blankly stared at Jiyan. It was as if Jiyan was a book from heaven conveying its contents to me. "You are a truly a talented girl. If I were here alone, I'm certain I wouldn't have known anything. If there are any gems you like, then take them."

Jiyan smiled, "Don't forget your words! Since you are so sincere, I'll just take two of the purple Crystals. Consider them as tokens of love that you gave to us two sisters which can also store magic power."

I gestured for Jiyan to do as she pleased and she merrily picked out two of the high-quality purple Crystals. "As long as you continuously direct magic power into the crystal, you can access it later when you need it. Look! It's so pure...so beautiful." She carefully put them into a small pouch and then shoved them in with her clothes.

Teasing Jiyan, I said, "And you said you didn't like gems and that you weren't a common woman. After seeing this purple Crystal, you revealed your true colors."

Hitting me lightly, Jiyan said, "Meanie, you should probably keep the other ones. You might need them in the future." While speaking, she passed me the box.

Looking at the wonderous gems inside the box I held, I smiled and said, These things can't be eaten. What's the use of having them? I should just give them all to you."

As I tried to pass the box to Jiyan, she stopped me with a touch and with some severity said, "You should not look down on these gifts; it's quite possible that everything included within this box represents the full fortune of that fatty and his uncle. If you were to run out of money in the future you could simply take just one of these gems and sell it for an enormous sum. Speaking conservatively, any one of the gems in this box could be sold for a minimum of a few hundred-thousand gold coins. Some

of them could be sold for prices in excess of tens-of-millions of gold coins.”

Upon hearing these numbers, the color immediately drained from my face. “Whuh...What?!? Mil...millions of gold coins??”

Jiyan had a very serious demeanor as she nodded and said, “That’s why you MUST keep them and guard them. Once I return home, I’ll take the two pieces you gave me and have them made into magical staffs for Jisue and I. They will be very beneficial to our magic cultivation.” I was still bewildered by the numbers Jiyan had said. With so much money, does that mean I am a billionaire? It would appear that the Gu brothers were truly unfamiliar with the incident in the lobby; that fatty had truly liquidated his entire fortune to keep his life!

In reality, what I didn’t know was that Swist·Feizen didn’t illicit the help of the Gu brothers in an attempt to negate his need to purchase the gems. It was, in fact, his fear that the Gu brothers would expect a duplicate set of the gems as tything and he knew, even if he sold himself by weight, he would never be able to accommodate them in a timely manner. Money can be earned again, and very quickly with that fatty’s level of corruption, but it would be impossible if he lost his position and the end result was too dreadful for him to contemplate.

Of course, the main reason Swist·Feizen gave for requesting the Gu brothers come was in hope that they would be able to find some flaw in my identity. Thus, once I died at the hands of the brothers, he would be able to keep the gems and restore his fortune.

If someone were to list the ten greatest officials of the Demon Kingdom in terms of corruption, then both Swist·Feizen and his uncle would definitely have their names on that list. This city was a crossroads and nexus of many commercial and political interests allowing many goods and materials to be bought and produced while at the same time allowing the Demon Kingdom the ability to easily launch their attacks against the Dragon Empire. And the corruption this allowed...

“Lay-Lay, these gems are intrinsically beneficial to you. I think it would

be better if you kept them on you. The box is quite inconvenient and you're far too careless. It would be weird if you haven't lost them after a short time."

"Am I really that careless? Then how should I carry them? It's not like I can glue them to my body, right?"

While Jiyan supported her head and thought, I couldn't help but notice her sweet scent for the first time today. She interrupted my thoughts when she said, "There's a way! Just wait here, it's still early. I'll be back soon." She ran out of the room as she finished speaking.

I shouted after her, "What are you trying to do? We are strangers in this foreign place. Be careful!"

Jiyan yelled back, "Gotcha! I'll be back soon."

After Jiyan had left, I couldn't help but secretly shake my head. Am I still the same Layson as before? When faced with Jiyan or Jisue, I could no longer put up my cold facade. Did I regret this? A singular word was shouted from heart: NO. Furthermore, not only didn't I regret this change, I felt that I actually liked my life as it is now. Both of them have warmed my heart like I've never known before, from beginning to end, allowing me to feel what it's like to have family for the first time.

It had been more than two hours by the time Jiyan finally returned to our suite. In her hands she held a black thing; I wondered what it was.

"Why were you gone for such a long time? It's almost noon. If we were to depart any later we wouldn't make it in time." I couldn't control my complaining.

Smiling, Jiyan cooed, "Why are you in such a hurry? Look!" As she spoke, she unfurled the black thing she had brought back with her.

As Jiyan presented her surprise to me, I could see that it was a vest. The vest had several small pockets covering the front. Suddenly I understood and said, "So, you're telling me I should put all of the gems in this vest?"

Jiyan nodded and exclaimed, "Hurry and go try it on! You wear it under your shirt next to your skin. There are six pockets, in total, and every one

of them contains five smaller pockets within that have a fastener. The gems shouldn't move around once you put them inside. The idea came to me as we were talking and I had the tailor make it. In addition, if there are other small, valuable items that you acquire in the future, you can place them in the vest as well. Not only is it a good design, but the material is also quite good. The vest is made from the hide of something called the maxi-fish-hawk. The material is light and thin yet very durable; it's as comfortable as a second skin. And even if you were to wear it every day for the rest of your life, it shouldn't break. To make certain of this, I had them purposefully place two slits on back of the vest; even when you transform the vest won't rip!"

After Jiyan handed me the vest, I could still feel the warmth that remained from the time she had held it against her body; my heart was aflutter. As she pushed me into the room, Jiyan said, "Stop day dreaming! Quickly, put it on! Weren't you just saying it's late?"

After I had donned the maxi-fish-hawk vest I noted just how comfortable it was; but more importantly my heart felt more at ease. I swore to myself, for Jiyan's sake, I wouldn't wantonly remove the vest. Jiyan looked me over with a discerning eye, "The vest fits rather well. I am impressed with the tailor's skills. Here, let me put the gems in the pockets for you."

Even though Jiyan was tall for girl, by human standards, her head only reached my shoulders. As she put the gems in the vest pockets, one-by-one, I could feel my heartbeat begin to race as I felt her tender, white hands caress my skin through the thin layer of the vest.

"Very good, all of the gems have been placed in the vest. My design is fairly good, no? Um...why is your face so red? Did you catch a cold? AH!" Jiyan hurriedly jumped to the side while looking at me with a huff.

Absentmindedly, I looked at her; I was at a loss as to how I should proceed. While pouting Jiyan lambasted me, "I will NOT allow you think such bad things!"

Clumsily I responded, "What bad things? There was no thinking

involved.”

In a demure yet jocular manner, Jiyan responded, “Shameless bastard, we need to hurry. As I returned I asked the innkeeper to prepare some rations for us so we could eat on the way.”

We left our suite and met with the innkeeper so that I could settle our account. To my surprise, the inn’s director refused to accept my money no matter what I said while kowtowing to us at the same time. I was left with no choice and finally decided to leave, but not before I threw a bag of gold coins on the counter. As Jiyan and I quickly ran out of the building, I could see a deep respect and gratefulness reflected in the eyes of the inn’s director.

The Gu brothers were waiting at the east gate by the time we arrived; even though they had been waiting for some time, they appeared to be at ease. I had expected to see more than just the brothers as representatives of the great and dignified Fallen Angel pantheon, but there wasn’t even one squire. The Gu brothers both wore the same black warrior suit and had a long sword strapped to their backs. Upon our arrival, I immediately apologized as politely as I could. “Elder brothers, I am very sorry. Due to some small matters were were held up and younger brother is late.”

Gwynn smiled and said, “It’s fine, let’s hurry and set out on our journey.”

As the Gu brothers set out, Jiyan and I followed along on Black Dragon. Even with the two of us on his back, my god-like steed never fell behind. If not for my deference to the Gu brother, Black Dragon would have overtaken their mounts; as it was I kept him at a relaxed pace beside the Gu brothers. Jiyan eyes soon closed as she nestled in my arms, there was no telling how long she had been asleep. Since we were traveling on the royal highway, it was well kept and smooth; and with Black Dragon galloping at a steady pace, my arms were the perfect place for a nap.

As I affectionately caressed Jiyan’s long, pale blue hair, I asked Gwynn, “Gu brother, I was wondering what the situation on the frontline is like. Are you aware of the situation?”

Gwynn smiled bitterly and then responded, “We’ve fought for so many

years, how else can it go? We will see both victory and defeat over time. According to news that arrived in the Emperor's city prior to our departure, when the battles began we had a slight advantage over our adversaries; but that advantage has slowly been whittled away to nothing. The Dragon Empire is not an easy foe to defeat. I heard tale from the beast side of the ware that they killed a Dragon Knight, but, in the process, their Beamon Troops lost almost one hundred people. I believe these are some of the heaviest damages seen by our side in a single battle in the recent 30 years. Those buffoons don't know what they're doing; such completely brainless trash needlessly sacrificing their own clansmen without reason.

Upon hearing Gwynn's criticism about my beastmen, my heart became uneasy. With furrowed eyebrows I defended them. "There are too many tribes in the Beast Clan and it's impossible to unite them. Every place has its own government with different rules. Even though their reproductive pace is quick and strong they are unable to fully develop their society. Only the Beamon Troop is able to mount a successful battle against an enemy."

Griffin coldly rebuked, "Hmph! What was that about the Beamon Troops? Compared to those of us from the Fallen Angel Pantheon, they are sorely lacking in power and ability. If one were to only compare individual strength, even a Dragon Knight might not be a match for a Fallen Angel. It is only with the help of their Divine Dragons that they overpower us. If I were able to cultivate to a four-winged Fallen Angel, I would slaughter them and make them suffer crushing defeat."

When I heard Griffin talking about wanting to become a four-winged Fallen Angel, I couldn't help but feel moved since I had always trained in the Demonic Arts alone. Seizing this opportunity, I decided it would be beneficial for me if I could converse with the brothers in an attempt to benefit and further my own cultivation. I immediately asked, "If I might ask, I was wondering what tier my two Elder brothers have cultivated through?"

Gwynn said, "We have both cultivated to the initial stage of the fifth

tier.”

I replied, “Oh! Looking at your pace, it won’t be long until both Elder brothers cultivate to a four-winged Fallen Angel.”

The Gu brothers looked at each other and Griffin frowned, “Are you being sarcastic?”

My face went blank and I replied, “Why would I be sarcastic? Little brother is speaking from his heart.”

Griffin chided, “Hmph! From your heart?!? Don’t you know that most of the people in the Fallen Angel Pantheon are at the fifth tier. Only a small number have ever reached the realm of the sixth tier?”

I shook my head and said, “I don’t know that I fully understand. Currently, though, I have reached the realm of the fourth tier and my improvements have been rather quick. With this speed, wouldn’t it be possible for both Elder brothers to reach the realm of the four-winged Fallen Angel in a short period of time?”

Gwynn woefully shook his head and responded, “Did His Majesty not tell you about the bottlenecks that occur when cultivating Demonic Arts?”

After my shock subsided, I shook my head and said, “No. His Majesty only passed down the Demonic Arts to me in my sixth year. I was left to cultivate on my own. I haven’t seen His Majesty more than five times in my life; each time we’ve exchanged less than ten sentences. He has rarely explained anything to me, saying that I must grasp it on my own.”

Feeling at ease after hearing me further explain my story, Gwynn said, “It’s no wonder you made your previous comments. Let me explain, from the fifth tier of the Demonic Arts and above there is a bottleneck that acts as a roadblock. Only by breaking through this bottleneck will you be able to advance to the next tier. Take us as an example, we have been cultivating at the fifth tier for four years yet we are still only at the initial stage of the fifth tier. Sigh...It is so difficult. Our father broke through the bottleneck of the sixth tier at the age of sixty-seven, this is considered an anomaly within the Demon Kingdom. His Majesty completed his four-

winged transformation at the age of fifty-four; a feat that hasn't been seen in the thousands of years the Demon Kingdom has existed. Even with our natural endowments, breaking through the fifth tier at the age of fifty was an incredibly difficult task for us. As for becoming four-winged Fallen Angels, we don't even think about it. Unless there is some sort of miracle, it would be impossible for us to reach that realm."

Surprised at Gwynn's comments, I asked, "Is it really that difficult?"

Gwynn laughed and said, "Wait until you reach the fifth tier, you will understand what we are saying about the four-winged transformation being an unreachable realm. That bunch of Dragon Knights from the Dragon Empire are nothing without their Divine Dragons. Three of them combined wouldn't be a match for his majesty. That damn Dragon Clan... only knows how to one-sidedly help the humans."

Although I've never seen the capability of a Dragon General, I was able to surmise their formidability just from seeing the Dragon Knights. The Demon Emperor can surprisingly rival three Dragon Knights without their Dragons, what realm is that!? After listening to what they said, I was even more motivated to cultivate toward transforming into a four-winged Fallen Angel. Griffin continued, "It's truly too bad. Once his majesty reached the seventh tier, it became difficult to make any further progress. That old man is already sixty-plus years old. You may not like hearing this, but, within another ten years after the elderly have passed away, I don't know whether the Demon Kingdom will still be evenly matched against the humans considering the current situation."

I curiously asked, "Is there no one in the next generation that can break through the sixth tier?"

Griffin slowed down his pace and slanted his head while saying, "It's not that there's no talented demons in the next generation, but after reaching the fifth tier it's not just about having good natural endowments to breakthrough it. There must also be certain favourable circumstances. This kind of thing is something you can only hope to happen; you can never make it happen. But you are so young. You are the youngest person I know, other than the princess, that can become a two-winged Fallen

Angel, after another twenty to thirty years, perhaps, you can really break through the sixth tier. When the time comes that you sit on the throne of the Demon Emperor, you'd better remember about us brothers~!"

I pretended to be downhearted and said, "With my identity, you shouldn't mention me being the Demon Emperor. I can't even be considered royalty."

Griffin laughed "Haha! Nothing is absolute. If you made a breakthrough into the sixth tier, achieving the realm his majesty is in right now, who cares what your lineage is. In the Demon Kingdom, if a four-winged Fallen Angel is equal to a messenger of the Demon God, then wouldn't the place of an Emperor be something that can be accomplished with extreme ease once one has reached the six-winged transformation?"

I never considered becoming Demon Emperor even after hearing what the Gu brothers said; I don't really desire authority. But that tyrannical power of a four-winged Fallen Angel moved my heart a lot. Becoming a peerless, powerful man had always been my dream.

I smiled and said, "These are all after words, whether or not I have that opportunity, I will not forget about both elder brothers. Right, his majesty inserted his magic power into that sister I've never seen, dropping two tiers of Demonic Arts, I wonder when he will recover. If the Dragon Generals make a move, no one will be able to stop them."

After listening to me saying this highest graded secret of the Demon Clan. Both of them had trusted me completely.

Gwynn said, "You don't have to worry about this, the Dragon Generals won't easily launch an attack, due to their destructive power being too strong, since a thousand years ago, the three clans made an agreement: after reaching their level, they aren't allowed to participate in normal fights, only to command backstage. Every ten years the head of each race will find a place that has no one to put up a good fight, I heard that there will always be a wager, as for what it is, only the people in their level will know. I had once asked father, and he was unwilling to tell us."

Griffin coldy snorted, "It's fine that he doesn't tell us, but he even said

that we are trash, that we won't be able to reach that realm our entire lives. We have three Fallen Angels in our family, and he is still unsatisfied, I really don't know what he wants us brothers to do."

I asked, "How's the result of each competition?"

Gwynn shook his head and said, "I'm not clear about this, probably all ties. If there's a chance, you can ask his majesty yourself, but unless you reach that realm, he might not tell you."

It seems, following them is a wise choice, it let me know about many secrets of the Demon Clan. Jiyan who was in deep slumber suddenly sat up, rubbing her blurry sleepy eyes, she asked me, "Where have we reached, ah, Ah Lay?"

Faint, what is this calling/name? I forcefully held in my intentions to laugh and answered, "Generally where have we arrived I don't know either, but there should be about sixty miles from where we started."

Gwynn laughed while saying, "Brother, your fiance is really beautiful. Our girls of Demon Clan win by their body figure, but appearances like hers are really rare, even in the royal palace it is rarely seen."

Jiyan was basically wide awake, after hearing she smiled and said, "Thanks for your appraisal, sir."

Right at this moment, The Gwynn brothers and I became alert at the same time, four people suddenly appeared on the broad state highway/official road. On both sides of the road were huge tall and dense forest of trees, due to this place being close to the borderline of the Demon Clan, very little people travel around here. The four people on the opposite side didn't seem to be strong or formidable; all of them are masked with black cloth, they stood in a horizontal line on the road, looking at the martial sword in their hands, they can't be trying to rob us, are they? The three of us pulled the rein almost the same time, stopping at a place 3 metres away.

Without waiting for us to say anything, the leader of the bandits shouted, "Stand there, this mountain belongs to us. If you wish to pass, leave your valuables. If you don't leave adequate valuables, hehe, we'll

kill~~~you; we don't care." Speaking of kill, he intentionally pulled the sound of the word longer.

The Gwynn brothers and I glanced at each other, and we loudly laughed spontaneously. The great three Fallen Angels actually got stopped by a few bandits, if this were to spread out it'll be too laughable. We are laughing at the overconfident bandits that have no idea of death or danger they were on, they met us it's their tragedy.

I coldly snickered and said, "Elder brothers can wait here, little brother will go take care of them." Killing bandits is one of my fortés: those bandits that died by my hand when I was in the Beastman Country were still being counted, and today these few pests met me. They can count themselves unlucky.

Gwynn suddenly reached out his hand and stopped/blocked me, "My worthy brother, I still want to ask them about something, in this highway, why would bandits appear? It won't be too late to make a move after asking, surely it doesn't mean that you fear they might run away!"

Jiyan spoke beside my ear softly, "Don't easily kill people okay? I don't like sanguinity."

I disapprovingly answered, "Killing is not something I'm willing to do, but if you don't kill him, he will kill you. Compared to the battlefield, killing a few bandits does not count as sanguinity." As I spoke, Gwynn kicked the belly of his horse and headed towards the bandits, Jiyan said softly in my arms, "But..... fine, but, you're still too inexperienced; they are much mature than you, they know that they need to ask and understand the situation first. Don't be too rash, you'll suffer losses." Although her voice is very low, Griffin who was not far away still heard it, and a glimpse of smile revealed in the corner of his lips.

Gwynn rode his horse and stopped at a place ten steps away from the opponent, he smiled and, cradling his right fist in his left hand while raised in front of his face, sent an amicable greeting, "I wonder which mountain does each of you heroes belong to?"

The leader of the bandits "hehe" laughed he lifted the martial sword

with both hands and placed it on his shoulders, “Why do you care where we come from, hurry up and give up the valuables, and I’ll let you pass. If not, today will be the day all of you die”

As Gwynn saw that the opponent did not answer, changes happened in his heart, and he angrily shouted, “Do you not know of your danger? How would my clan produce trash like this? Hmph.”

An imposing manner gushed out from his body, covering four of them at the same time, under the forceful pressure, the four bandits appeared like a duck in a thunderstorm. Gwynn laughed, he lowered his pressure on his opponents and shouted, “If you want to live get lost, today I don’t feel like killing.”

As we thought that a scene of slaughter would be avoided like that, at this time, I suddenly noticed a glimpse of coldness flashed in the eyes of the person on the far left. This is the divine light that only the experts have, I hurriedly shouted, “Gu brother, be careful, they aren’t normal bandits.”

Gwynn is a veteran in battle, after hearing my call he leapt into the sky without the slightest hesitation, his body like that of an arrow sped backwards. As I shouted, the opposite 4 people have also made a move, four forces of stagnated aura hurricane, four flashes of black glow heavily hit on the position where Gwynn was, Gwynn’s fine horse was blasted into pieces along with the black glow. The scene before our eyes dazed even Griffin who was always steady. Gwynn secretly wiped his cold sweat, if it weren’t for my reminder, if being launched a surprise attack by 4 opponents with such strength, the result will be unthinkable.

With a solemn face, he pointed at the opponent and asked, “Who in the world are you guys? What is your purpose?”

Without waiting for their reply, Griffin jumped down from his horse, pulling his hasty big brother, he said deeply, “You don’t have to tell, I also know who you are, is the Su Cha prince still well?”

After hearing Griffin’s words, four of them shivered at the same time, the leaders laughed loudly and said, “Not bad, not bad, as expected from

you two brothers you're well-deserved of your reputation, I thought that my disguise was close to perfection, how could be so sure that I'm the prince's people? Regardless, whether or not you could recognize my identity, this will be the place you die, you should know, as Fallen Angels, four vs two, you guys had no chance, be sensible and take your own life, I can still leave your corpse intact."

My heart skipped a beat, listening his manner of speaking, all four of them should be Fallen Angels, why would they kill each other?

Griffin said with disdain, "What's so difficult about seeing through your disguise, right now most of the people from the Fallen Angel Pantheon are slaughtering the enemies in the frontline. Those who stayed in this land are only us brothers and the few personal bodyguards of the prince, coupled together, I naturally know who you are, stop masking your face, Su Er."

That person that was called Su Er by Griffin tore down his mask cloth, revealing a piece of pale white hideous face, by the looks, he did not look like Fallen Angel, in contrast he looked more like a kind of special army of the Demon Clan—Vampire.

Griffin angrily rebuked, "Bullshit, with the few of you wanting to take our lives, it's virtually dreaming in daylight."

When they are conversing, Gwynn said in a lowered voice, "These four bastards are incredibly powerful; when we fight afterwards, leave us, take your fiancé and leave as fast as possible. Their targets are us two brothers, so when you meet his majesty you can just let that old man avenge us."

Chapter 6: Desperate Fight on the Main Road

Gwynn sighed and said, "The internal conflict in our Demon Clan is very intense. If not for the existences of these two four-winged Fallen Angels, his majesty and my father, I'm afraid that the fights would have happened long ago. Their representative is the other big authority— the Su Cha prince. The Prince is his majesty's brother, and he has more than ten Fallen Angels in his camp; his is the largest force of power besides his majesty. The prince is overwhelmingly ambitious; he has long wanted to overtake his majesty. I don't know who leaked the information that let him know of the incident about his majesty passing his power to the princess. With such an opportunity, he would of course want to suppress the power on this side as much as possible. That Su Er has already reached the sixth tier of Demonic Arts, and is very powerful. The other few are also at the level of fifth tier. We don't stand a chance. You should hurry up and leave, if not, it will be too late."

I looked at Jiyan who was in my embrace with a determined gaze. My gaze alone had told her my decision.

Jiyan smiled and said: "Men should have something they should persist in. I will support you no matter what, but don't drive me away. I want to stay here with you; even in death, I want to be with you."

She was really very intelligent; she penetrated my thoughts with one sentence. I laughed bitterly, "You can leave riding Black Dragon. I'll be distracted If you stay here, and you can't fight either."

Jiyan shook her head and said, "Pay no attention to me, just do what you need to do."

The Gwynn brothers treated me so sincerely. That's why even if they are enemies, at this time, I definitely cannot abandon them and leave. If I did, I wouldn't deserve to be a man and I'd never become a peerless powerful being. I definitely cannot escape even if I were to face danger.

At this moment, Griffin and Su Er's conversation has broken off, and the four opponents surrounded us like a fan. Su Er said sinisterly, "Do not let even one escape. Darkness condense in thy soul. To have fallen is to be freed. Awaken! Myriad of magical powers that hath slumbered in mine blood." Almost at the same time, the four of them completed the Fallen Angel transformation.

Gwynn blocked in front of me, unsheathing his own long sword with Griffin. "Darkness condense in thy soul. To have fallen is to be freed. Awaken! Myriad of magical powers that hath slumbered in mine blood."

However, I was the first one on our side to transform. After transforming, I flashed beside the two of them, Black Sable pointing slantwise at the floor: "You guys don't have to try to persuade me anymore, let's get through this together. Three vs four, we might not lose either." Although that's what I said, I didn't have the slightest confidence in my heart.

My transformation startled Su Er, "Another Fallen Angel? A newly successful transformation? Fine, I'll let you be destroyed in your undeveloped stage."

The Gwynn brothers knew that they could not persuade me, and they also felt gratified due to my actions; they transformed into Fallen Angels and guarded both of my sides. Seven pairs of beating wings of the Demon Clan's strongest type of army stood against each other on the main road. Our powerful imposing manner should cover an area of a few hundreds meters in diameter. Jiyan had already run to somewhere far away riding Black Dragon.

At the place where we seven people stood tall and upright, there was not even a glimpse of sunlight as it was completely shrouded by the black mist released by us, and the black mist will become the barrier for our decisive battle. I felt an unprecedented immense pressure, the hand that held Black Sable was soaked with sweat.

14 flashes of ice-cold gazes clashed in the sky, no one was giving the slightest concession, under the comparison of momentum, we are

obviously at the disadvantage, we can't let this go on like this, if we faced the peaked attack of the opponents when they are at their peak momentum, we might not necessarily be able to take it on.

At that moment, I struck first. I accumulated all of the Mad God chi with dark magic power mixed into it, channeling it through both of my hands to transfer it into Black Sable. With one step forward, Black Sable heavily slammed onto the ground. The Gu brothers, who were used to working together, both flew up to my sides, and like lightning, they charged towards the enemy.

A gigantic explosion started the desperate struggle, the power of Hurricane blasted behind the back of the four opponents, bringing shreds of rocks, and two types of energy surging towards them, covering the land and sky.

The Gu brothers made their move, and leapt at them at the same time. Their long blades turned into two black glows/shadows cutting down at Su Er at the same time. The opponent was not even the slightest bit shocked/baffled by the attacks coming from both sides, dividing into two teams two opponents spread their wings, to face the shards of rocks from behind while Su Er, and the last opponent faced the Gu brothers' attacks.

After releasing Hurricane I took a deep breath, raised Black Sable high, and leapt at the opponents. The sound of the collisions kept producing uninterrupted Ping Ping rang throughout the sky, The Gu brothers combo attack was incredibly powerful, they actually avoided the attacks of the last opponent, and concentrated their most powerful attack on Su Er, their battle strategy is very accurate, destroy the leader, and the gang will collapse.

Su Er was being continually pushed backwards by the endless combination attacks of the brothers. At this very moment, I came to them, I didn't stop the other enemy; instead, I charged towards Su Er with my sword, shouting: "Violent Dance of the Mad Dragon." The Gu brothers cooperated greatly and wiped out Su Er's attacks, blocking both sides of his exits at the same time, making him using his own body to counter the the ink-black dragon which I had transformed into.

Those two that were dealing with Hurricane has completed their mission/duty. They were flying here at fast as they could, while the other enemy charged at me from my side with full force, adopting the 'relieve the besieged by besieging the base of the besiegers' strategy. If I continued to attack Su Er, I would definitely get hit by him.

However, in this hasty gap of time, he definitely won't be able to bring out his full power immediately. This condition benefited us a lot; if we could critically damage Su Er, we would certainly cause great damage to our opponents. I gritted my teeth, and decided to hit Su Er; even if I was hit by my opponent's attack, I wanted to take his life.

Despite facing a situation of life and death Su Er was abnormally calm. He fixed his gaze at me sombrely, and abnormal happiness flashed in his eyes. His body urgently swayed as he avoided the attack from the Gu brothers in a flash. A dark energy orb suddenly appeared on his chest, and with a loud roar, he violently pushed the orb towards me.

The Gu brothers were not weak either; even though Su Er dodged their incoming attacks, he was still gashed by the chi, leaving two deep wounds on his arms.

The ink-black dragon that I formed heavily clashed with the black energy ball, and the berserking violent wind threw all four of us apart at the same time. The trees around the main road all fell flat apart, and the earth beneath us completely exploded.

The Gu brothers were dodging the soil that had been scattered into the air, while leaping in my direction, since the current me was unable to control my own body. The clash just now has caused my entire body to be paralyzed momentarily.

The Gwynn brothers made a turn in the air, flying to the both sides of my body, and grabbed both of my arms. Because of the heavy backlash just now, it caused me to avoid the attack from behind.

The power from the shock of the rebound gave me a mild injury. To my astonishment, even though Su Er was spraying a sky of blood vigorously, it felt like his injury was not that serious at all. I couldn't even deal him a

critical damage in such an advantageous circumstance, it was really unfathomable. I had exhausted almost all of my power in that attack just now. That instant of advantageousness had now been vanished.

Su Er's stood there with his hair disheveled, and his comrades surrounded him with him in the centre. In the turbulent winds, his clothes were shredded into pieces and his body soaked with blood, making him somewhat terrifying/scary. Su Er sealed his blood veins, glaring at us without even looking away for a second, and a voice came out from the gap of his teeth: "You guys take care of the Gu brothers, leave that boy to me. If I don't break his bones and crush him to dust, then my name isn't Su Er-Lucifer."

He used his hand to wipe blood that was across his lips and licked, an evil grin appearing on his face: "You made me hurt, and now I will return the favor ten times over."

I adjusted my breathing rate and gripped Black Sable tightly, the following battle will be even veil compared to the previous one, the opponent would not give us the previous chance again.

"Brother, you should hurry up and leave after all, we should be able buy you some time, you're only giving away your life if you stay here." Gwynn urgently convinced me. I slowly shook my head hard, my mouth put together six words, "Fight-to-death,with-no-regrets!"

I had also thought about escaping, but if I ran, this trauma would be buried in my heart forever; it would have an unpredictable effect on me in the future. If I ran, what would Jiyan think? In her heart, I would become a coward.

What I didn't know was, because of the change in the relationship, in Ji Yan's heart, power was already not as important anymore. She was riding on the Black Dragon watching our battle carefully for afar, mumbling: "Lay-lay, you definitely cannot let anything happen to you, if the situation turns out badly, just run away."

Love had long caused this arrogant but kind girl to put down everything; my safety was the most precious thing to her. Too bad, I still didn't know

about it right now. If I did, who would want to risk my life!?

The formerly long main road was destroyed by the apocalyptic crash and had formed a large round hole. Right now we were in this hole.

Other than Su Er, the other three enemies were holding their martial swords up high. At the same, they transformed into three black bridges with a loud shriek, and made an abrupt turn towards us. The Gu brothers faced the attack with their twin blades, hong hong clashings sound of air were continuously produced in the sky. Because the Gu brothers had such great teamwork, for a short moment, the opponents weren't able to do anything to them.

I concentrated completely on Su Er. He stared at me with an evil grin on his face and chanted: "Oh great God of Darkness, as your servant, I am willing to exchange my precious soul in return for a momentary power. Please accept my request, and grant me the purest among darkness, the evilest, and the most explosive power. Darkness Distillation."

I knew this magic, one needed to be in the Sixth Tier of Demonic Arts in order to use a Sixth-Level Dark Magic. It had no fundamental damage, but it could completely recover the state of oneself in an instant. The absorption of dark elements from the air could reached up to 1.5 times of its original state, and it belonged to supporting class of dark magic.

However this magic's side effect was incredibly severe. After the period of use, the user needs to cultivate for a month in order to recover to one's original state. During that period of cultivation, one must also suffer lots of unbearable pain. Since he had used this magic, he must have had the intention of not letting a soul get away.

There was no way stop him, since the usage of this magic was very fast. The thing that I needed to do now was to recover the two kinds of energy in my body's energy as soon as I could, so I that could as least put up a fight with the opponent later. As he was mumbling the chant, an eerie black hexagram appeared below his feet. Purple light instantly surrounded his entire body, as if the light was being absorbed into his body. His eyes changed from the black eyes of fallen angel to an evil

purpleish black.

“Kid, go die.” The martial sword slashed horizontally, and a black purple energy slantingly lashed out towards me. When the energy was released, even though it was still a long distance away from me but I could already feel his aura tightly locking me down. Only after a reckless struggle would I be able to dissolve this assault forcefully. If I didn’t, I’ll be followed by his attacks, and there will only be a death road ahead.

I lifted Black Sable and transferred dark magic into it, simplistically slashing out the same path according to his attack line. In the instant the two power clashed together, the power with a strength entirely different from the first collision completely crushed my sword chi to shreds, and heavily slashed into my chest.

I let out a scream and was sent flying horizontally before heavily ramming into the wall of the hole. The cloth on my chest had a large slit cut out, showing the inner clothing. If it wasn’t for my thick skin, I’m afraid that I would die in his blade.

Gliding his martial blade on the ground, he walked towards me step by step. As he approached closer, the pressure abruptly increased; even if the Gu brothers wanted to help me, they were powerless.

Two vs Three, it was clear that they were at disadvantage, being tightly trapped by three opponents. If it weren’t for the injuries of the opponent, I’m afraid they would have long been unable to maintain this situation right now.

Su Er said: “Kid, you’re tough, but that just now was just an appetizer, the real main course is still ahead. I won’t let you die easily, I will cut you inch by inch. Haha, hahahaha.”

“Why the hell are you laughing, watch my blade.” Black Sable caused a large whirlwind and directly aimed for his stomach. Without waiting to finish my technique, I instantly floated up into the air. Black Sable created a sky of shadows of swords that flew towards Su Er. Since my strength cannot be compared to his, then I would have to rely on my speed, hoping for a miracle to happen.

Su Er leisurely waved the martial sword in his hand, and he counted my attacks, one after another. I tried to strike from difficult angles as best as I could, gathering Dark Magic and Mad God's Chi on the tip of Black Sable, contacting the points of the blade, causing Su Er's martial sword to produce ting ting noise.

Su Er's martial sword was heavier than half a hundred kg; it was like the size of half a door. Under the situation of close combat in this short distance, even though he had a great reserve of defense, the attacks weren't enough; I was using this weak point to circle around with him. Although the Mad God Arts' third mode was more powerful, in comparison, it had consumed too much energy. The current me was completely relying on speed to spin around with him. Mad God's Chi was mainly used to increase the speed. At a point, Su Er really couldn't get rid of me.

What made me feel surprisingly happy was that, from the moment I was gashed by the chi that Su Er let out and sustained minor damage, an energy was continuously flowing from below my lower right belly. It was a very warm energy; although it did not treat my injuries, it brought vitality to my surrounding of injuries, stimulating the surrounding cells of my injuries to repair themselves.

The right side of my chest gave out a faint fragrant scent, uninterruptedly stimulating my nerves, causing me to remain in a hyper mode all the time. This allowed me to fight Su Er with overflowing spirit.

I knew that the scent on my right chest came from the bloodstone, because Ji Yan had once said, BloodStone helps to refresh the mind; it was for the clarity of mind. But what is the vitality that passed by, it must be one of the gems, but at the moment, I couldn't recall where was each gems placed by Jiyan back then.

Too bad I didn't have the purple crystal that could save the magic power, or else there might have been a slight chance of victory. Su Er was not rushed to exterminate me, he was just lightly using his martial sword to block my attacks; an evil grin was still being kept on his face.

I knew that he was waiting for his partner to get rid of the Gu Brothers, and he did not want to get hurt either; that's why he had not using his entire might. However, my current ability could only allow me to maintain this current situation. Once the distance was pulled between us, I'm afraid that would be the moment I would my life. Although my defense was superb, if i was struck by that tough and gigantic martial sword, I'm afraid it wouldn't be pleasant at all.

The area of the hole that we were battling continuously expanded; if one looked from the above, one would discover that the entire hole was pervaded with a layer of soil fog. Only the shadow of a person.

Ji Yan had long tied Black Dragon at afar, and ran over here alone. She squatted down on border/edge the hole, nervously watching the battle between me and Su Er.

I was wielding my power with all my might, the desperate combat made me felt great satisfaction. The two energies in my body continuously merged and released, and Su Er surprisingly realized that I was getting more and more powerful as I fought; I didn't show a slightest hint of tiredness. His power was way stronger than mine, and was coupled with the supporting dark magic. Based on that, it should be quite easy to get rid of me, but the main point was that he didn't wanted to get hurt. He wanted to defeat me with a complete victory, so he dragged on, waiting for the instant when I would become disheartened, before giving a death blow.

But my increasing power made his heart chilled for a second. He felt a burst of coldness in his heart, as he thought to himself, "If it another 20 had years passed, I'm afraid that the Demon Clan would be ruled by this kid's hands." Thinking back here, Su Er couldn't care less about him getting hurt anymore. He risked his life as he was struck by Black Sable, going all out in releasing chi from his entire body, and sent me back with a shockwave. While I was still flying backwards, he raised his martial sword over his head and shouted, "Darkness Air Slash."

The surrounding black mist that seemed to have been absorbed this strike, turning into a black band of energy that was slashing at me. The

Gu brothers simultaneously shouted: “Don’t take that attack head-on, quickly dodge!” But their words came a little too late, as I had already swung Black Sable and clashed with this so-called Darkness Air Slash. I solidly struck at his martial sword, and the energy that gushed at me cut on my shoulder, making my blood splatter everywhere. My shoulder first numbed, then a burst of intense pain came from the wound.

I knew that my collarbone was probably broken. A great amount of dark magic rushed into my body, crazily destroying the meridian channels in my body.

Su Er shouted and delivered his martial sword. The shock sent me flying out, my blood spraying wildly. Black Sable flew out my hand, and part of the hand between the thumb and the index finger was shattered by the shock. Almost everyone thought that, after receiving such serious wound, it was impossible for me to survive. Only Jiyan understood that with my Beamon body, although I was heavily damaged by this attack, it couldn’t take my life. She could no longer care about other things, as she flew down and stood in front of me.

At the same time I was wounded, the Gu brothers’ situation wasn’t any better, due to both of them giving away some attention to warn me. The opponents caught their openings and forcefully assaulted a few times, it was two vs three after all, so they were at disadvantage in general. Both of them were also spewing blood wildly and was sent to a side by the shock.

Su Er complacently let out a loud laugh, “You guys look after these two brothers, I’m going to settle with this kid. Right now, I’m afraid he is still be breathing. Hey, this girl really beautiful; although I’m a little old, making you feel paradise and hell at the same time is still not a problem. Hurry up and get out of the way, let me finish with this kid. I’ll find a deserted place, and properly service you later.”

Jiyan was so angered by his words that her face became red, her hand that held the magic staff was slightly trembling. Right now I was lying on the floor behind her back. There’s not one place on my body that wasn’t was suffering in pain. My right lower belly continuously delivered a life force that was replenishing my body. I also saw the Gu brother’s

situation.

It's over, everything's over. With Jiyan's strength, what could she possibly do? Currently, my only regret was not persevering my attempts to force Jiyan to leave when the fight first started. Hearing Su Er's humiliating words, my heart surged in anger. The pain from my wounded meridians intensified, and I spew out another mouthful of blood.

As Jiyan was thinking about using light magic to go against Su Er, a black shadow flashed past, and the magic staff fell into the enemy's hand. Su Er laughed, "Girl, since you wish for pleasure right here, then I shall fulfill it. Brothers, after I do this, you all will have a share. I'll let his kid see how his own woman will be treated by us. Hahaha." The remaining people also followed and laughed wildly.

Gwynn supported his body and sat up, he raged, "You, you beasts, you cannot do this. Brother, your elderly brothers are sorry to you, we will not forgive these animals even after we have gone to hell."

A Fallen Angel coldly snorted, throwing out two dark energy orb towards the brothers, hong hong, noise was produced as the brothers were sent flying by the blast at the same time. They were firmly inserted in the soil of the wall of the hole, their blood looked anomalously horrendous, as the whole wall of soil looked as if they were in purgatory. Although this wasn't enough to take their life, they could no longer wish to remain conscious. Due to losing conscious, the Gu brothers returned to their original state; the wings behind their backs were gone, and their hair also returned to its original form.

Jiyan's face was deathly pale as she stared straight at Su Er with a look of despair as Su Er slowly walked towards her, one step at a time.

Suddenly, Su Er stopped in his tracks in alarm, as he looked behind Jiyan unwaveringly.

Jiyan blacked, she turned around and looked, as she discovered a pair of red iris, delivering a gigantic force, she was thrown above the hole.

Turned out to be, while Su Er was humiliating Jiyan, I could no longer keep my conscious clear, as the rage in my heart triggered the nature of

Berserk. The black wings burned red in the fire of rage. Both my hair and my eyes changed afterwards. The wounds on the body were closing and recovering speedingly; even the broken collarbone connected itself.

I stood up, lightly floating, and I flew over to Jiyan's back. The remaining conscious in my brain told me that I cannot hurt this girl before my eyes, in the instant I waved, I sent Jiyan out the hole.

My entire body was letting out a dangerous aura, without the slightest hint of anger in the voice, "All of you, die." I spreaded the red wings, sending the dark energy orbs they fired flying, a tyrannical power congested beside me, the roots of my hair stood up. Black Sable was attracted to my hand, under the the insertion of energy, it surprisingly turned into the same eerie red.

Su Er exclaimed in shock: "You, what monster are you?"

I lifted Black Sable and said slowly, one word at a time: "You will be first one to die." A red light flashed as I appeared behind Su Er, staring unwaveringly at the other three people.

Su Er let out a cruel scream, a wrist sized blood hole appeared on his chest, blood spraying out wildly as he softly collapsed onto the floor. Actually, he wasn't that weak, although the current me that has transformed into Crimson Angel had absolute power above his, but the difference weren't big, it was definitely impossible to kill him with one strike, it's just that for a moment he wasn't able to accept such eerie look and the form of my mutation, his movements slowed down a little, dark magic wasn't utilised either, and he died under my ghostly speed just like that.

But because he had extraordinary power, he did not turn into a sky of blood rain like White Skye had, the sixth tier of Demonic Arts was indeed extraordinary. I swung Black Sable horizontally to the front of my eyes, lightly licking the blood on it's surface, "Who's next?"

The remaining three Fallen Angels backed off one after another. Someone among them let out a scream and the three of them flied and fled out into three different directions.

Did they really think I'm monster? As their momentum became disheartened, they could no longer become a threat to me. Right now, I was only thinking about blood, blood, blood.

Red glow continuously flashed. Suddenly, two people in the air have their waist slashed, the last one was nailed on a large tree by the Black Sable I threw out. Perhaps this state was too frightening; originally they only needed to hold out until my berserk transformation had disappeared, and they'd be able to take my life. However, the current result was....I attracted Black Sable back to my hand and stood there in the middle of the hole, laughing crazily. The surrounding was flooding with evil atmosphere. The originally black mist had been completely absorbed into my body.

A red light flashed, I flew out the hole, Jiyan was just in front, she looked at my ferocious face with pale face, unconsciously backing, even Black Dragon from afar was nervously digging the ground with its forehoof.

I looked at her with unsettled expression. Suddenly, I staggered and knelt on the floor with one knee, the red color on my body slowly disappeared; returning to the former black, right after the wings were kept into my body, my eyes and my hair also returned to their original color. A streak of black blood flowed down from the corner of my lips. As I looked at Jiyan desolate and indistinctly, I said brokenly, "Sa.....save..... both of.....them, make.....up.....a story.....tell.....them, wait..... until....th.....they're..... a bit..... better, let..... them.....quickly.....bring..... me.....to.....a.....safe.....place.....to.....recover, did I.....scare.....you? Sor.....sor.....ry." After the last word, like a falling jade pillar I collapsed on the floor.

Two streams of ice-cold chi endlessly cycled throughout my body, repairing the injuries throughout my body. My conscious gradually became clearer, and I directed my remaining dark magic in my body to cycle with these two energy of the same source, the lower right belly continuously delivered vitality that was replenishing my body. Compared to the Crimson Angel transformation last time, the drawing of power this

time was even more severe. After all, I killed four formidable enemies. If there wasn't the continuous support from the vitality and these two forms of energy right now, I'm afraid that if I didn't die this time I would be crippled.

The Dark Magic cycled within my body for another seven cycles. The two energies from the outside gradually dispersed, and I slowly opened my eyes.

"Ah, Ah Lei, you're awake. That's great." A few droplets of water dripped on my face.

I focused my vision and discovered Jiyan not far away from me, with a face like a pear blossom had bathed in the rain. I opened my mouth and spoke with hoarse voice: "Are we safe now?"

Another voice came from beside; it was Gwynn: "Brother, it's already safe now. Even if Su Cha still wants to chase after us to kill us, he doesn't have anymore people at hand. How are you doing, are your injuries any better?" I turned my head; the Gu brothers were sitting cross-legged next to me, their eyes full of gratefulness as they looked at me.

"A lot better. Where are we?" I surveyed the surroundings. It was currently daytime, and there were large trees around us. It seemed like we were in the jungle not far from where the incident had occurred.

Gu Feng said: "We are in the forest next to the official path. We're about 3 kilometers away from where they intercepted us. Thank you, brother. If it wasn't for you, we would've had to reincarnate."

I forced a smile and said: "Second Gu brother, you shouldn't say that. If I didn't kill them, I would've died as well. Jiyan, can you tell me what happened since I fell unconscious?"

I did this for a reason. Who knew what kind of story Jiyan would make up? If they asked later and I didn't reply correctly, wouldn't I blow our cover? Although they didn't have power anymore, it was still better to be cautious.

After I awoke, Jiyan had been constantly in an state of excitement.

Hearing me ask her, she immediately understood my intention. She held my hand and warmly said: "Close your eyes, and I will tell it to you."

I obediently shut my eyes, and Jiyan actively began to tell me what happened after I had fainted.

It turned out that after I had fainted that day, Jiyan had momentarily lost her head, and had no way of healing me. She could only wrap my wounds, and then afterwards fetched the Gu brothers from the edge of the hole. She couldn't handle the three of us alone, so she could only pull us into the forest. After half a day, in the dead of the night, the Gu brothers had awakened first.

The two of them didn't ask about the situation. They quickly began to heal themselves all the way up until the second morning. After the two of their injuries had improved, they brought us to where we were now.

When they asked Jiyan about the situation, Jiyan told them that the Demon Emperor once passed down a kind of Demonic Dismantling Law, it can instantly outburst one's own life potential. And of course, there's a price to pay.

Speaking of it it's hilarious, Jiyan actually said that I drawed out twenty years of life force in exchange for immense power, sending the four opponents to their deaths one after another. The Gu brothers naturally could not be more grateful, without waiting for their injuries to recover they started to take turn to treat me with Dark Healing Magic, steadyng my the condition of my injuries.

I was unconscious for an entire 7 days. Two days ago, the Gu brothers had already pretty much recovered. So the two of them treated my injuries together, which were the two outside energies of the same source that I had felt.

Under their hard work, I had finally awoken. Jiyan's ability to make up stories was really amazing! After I finished hearing her recount, I opened my eyes and said: "Thank you to these two brothers for treating my wounds for me. Are your own injuries fine now?"

Chapter 7: Bidding Farewell

While lowering his head, Griffin said, “Brother, you must not say this! You gave us our lives. If there’s anything in the future, just say the word; we will support you without hesitation. Damn it, that son of a bitch Su Cha, us two grandpas aren’t dead yet! Wait until we go report back to his Majesty, we’ll see how his majesty takes care of him. Now that he has lost four Fallen Angels in one go, I’d like to see how he’d fight us.”

I said apologetically, “I’ve held you up for quite some time now. If you’re in a hurry, you can just leave. Jiyan’s taking care of me now.”

Gwynn said with determination, “How can this be? Even if we were to leave, we will leave after your injuries are completely healed. If we left just like that, how could we rest assured? Although we will be delayed a bit, I think his majesty will forgive us. Don’t speak any more, you should rest.”

I bitterly mourned in my heart. I originally intended to find a chance to ditch them; what if they invite me to the Demon Clan’s main camp? I didn’t think that these two brothers would be so righteous, so it seemed that I needed to find another excuse.

Griffin suddenly said, “Brother, I’ve thought of an idea. Our injuries are not completely healed, and your injuries are still rather serious; to recover as soon as possible, let us three heal together. This method can be done much quicker. Although I’ve never tried it before, there is sure to be an effect.”

I nodded and said, “I will listen to everything you brothers say.”

“Good, you just woke up so rest for today. We brothers will set up a barrier nearby and we’ll start first thing tomorrow morning.”

The Gu brothers and I sat down in a triangle with our legs crossed and palms joined together, with Jiyan protecting us on the side. I made my dark magic cycle one round in my body in accordance to the Demonic Arts, and then transferred it to Griffin; after which Griffin cycled it one round before transferring it to Gwynn; lastly, Gwynn transferred it back to

me. I then transferred it to Griffin once again, forming a never ending cycle that was based on three people.

When it started, there were some clashes due to the difference in level of cultivation of the brothers and me. But as time passed, our dark magic gradually started to fuse.

The cycling speed greatly increased with the energy from three people cycling in each other's body. Although this wasn't able to raise our progress in the Demonic Arts, it was very effective in healing injuries and repairing meridian channels.

One day passed, two days passed, three days passed; we were still cultivating uninterrupted. The thick black mist completely wrapped around our bodies, causing Jiyan to no longer dare to stand close to us. She waited -at the side, chewing the rations out of boredom.

.....

On the fifth day, three clear whistling sounds rang at the place our crossed legs met, the mist that was enclosing us rushed into each of our bodies. The sound of the whistle was clear and powerful; even the towering old trees surrounding us were rustling and trembling because of the shock.

Our injuries healed at the same time. I stood beside Jiyan in a flash. I had received the largest benefits during these five days. Due to the achievements of the Gu brothers being higher than mine, the three streams of energy merged into one and divided all the dark magic into three equal parts in the end.

Thus, I directly entered the late stage of the fourth tier; breaking through the fifth tier was just a matter of time. And although the Gu brothers had their injuries healed, their dark magic had been degraded to the realm when they first reached the fifth tier.

Actually, Griffin and his brother had already known that this would be the result, they were just using this opportunity to repay me for saving their lives. Since they offered, I did not mention it.

Jiyan excitedly asked, “Are all your injuries healed?”

I nodded and replied with pleasure, “It’s all thanks to the care of the two elder brothers, my injuries are all healed. Look, aren’t I so lively that I can fight and kill right away? Haha.”

Jiyan pouted and said, “Just knowing how to fight and kill, I am going to be annoyed to death.”

I smiled and said, “The fighting and killing is to protect you.”

“Pu ha!”

Jiyan laughed and said, “There are three experts here; who would want to plot against me? I was almost bored to death here. Since you have all recovered, let’s be on our way.”

At the mention of leaving, my heart tightened as I said to the Gu brothers, “Two elder brothers, what are your plans?”

Gwynn replied, “No matter what, we should go to the main camp; we still haven’t accomplished the mission his majesty gave us. Then we would probably directly return to the royal palace to report this incident to His Majesty. Since this concerns the security of our clan, you should follow us back to the Demon Clan’s main camp after all.”

I thought, it’s here. I shook my head and replied, “No, I cannot go. What reason do I have to go there? To see my sister? She might not even recognise me, I should just finish the mission His Majesty gave me.”

Griffin patted my shoulders and said, “Brother, don’t be sad, with your character and skills, you’ll be successful one day. Since you’re not willing to go, we won’t force you. Once we reach the borderlands, let’s part ways.”

Listening to what he said, I couldn’t help but let out a breath of relief. I smiled and said, “Don’t worry, brothers. We shall meet again. Let’s be on our way then.”

We urged our horses on. Riding leisurely on the main path, Gwynn said while smiling, “We are finally on our way again. I really feel alive after surviving a disaster, it’s the first time I’ve ever come so close to death. At

that time, when the dark energy orb was about to hit me, I thought it was over. As a soldier of the empire, not dying in the battlefield but by the hands of our own people would have been the most disgraceful way to die.”

I smiled and said, “Gu brothers, don’t say it that way, the opponents planned this for a long time, there was no way to prevent it. If you don’t die after a disaster, luck will definitely be coming your way. This might be you brothers’ chance!”

Griffin said, “I originally thought that our strength was something to be proud of, but only now do I know how laughable we are. Brother and I have decided: after we finish these few missions and after this war has ended, we will find a place to train properly. Even if we can’t break through to become four-winged fallen angels, we want to at least reach the sixth tier.”

Jiyan smiled and said, “You two brothers are so ambitious, there will definitely be a bright future ahead. As long as one works hard, even if you aren’t able to reach the standards of His Majesty, you will have no regrets. I believe that the lord general will definitely feel happy for your hard work and training.”

“Thanks for the encouraging words from brother and sister, we also hope for this.” After listening to Gwynn saying brother and sister, Jiyan’s face suddenly became as red as a mellow apple; she buried her head in my arms and stopped making any noise. Even the serious Griffin started to laugh loudly with his brother.

Two days later, we arrived atop a small hill. “Look over there, that is our Demon Clan’s main camp. The walls on the opposite side are where the fort of the Dragon Empire begins at the base of Stelu city. Your destination is over there, be careful.”

It’s afternoon right now, so the Demon-Beast alliance main camp was very silent . The dragon flag of Fort Stelu on the opposite side was fluttering. It seemed like the war had just started.

I sighed and said, “I really don’t know what they are thinking; they have

fought for so many years and no one could make any progress, so why are they still fighting? With such a great cost, is there no effect on our kingdom?"

Gwynn looked at me oddly and said, "Brother, it's not right to say that. Exterminating humans and conquering the continent is the hope of every citizen in our Demon Clan. Don't be so passive. One day, we will breach Fort Stelu."

My heart clenched harshly, and I knew that I had said the wrong thing. It was good that they didn't question me any further.

"Exterminating humans is the hope of every citizen in our Demon Clan?!" What bullshit! I'm certain it's just the will of the royals.

I had finally come back. Although the Dragon Empire was not my home, when I saw the fort, I felt very warm. It was as if a lifetime had passed. Jiyan, who was in my arms, gazed sadly off into the distance; I didn't know what she was thinking about.

Griffin's ear moved and he said with a deep voice, "Someone is coming."

Gwynn smiled and said, "Little brother, you don't have to be so nervous do you? Only our people can possibly appear in this place."

Griffin's thick face reddened and said, "Perhaps, but we should at least have our guard up a little."

I focused on my hearing, and as expected, I heard a team of twenty heading this way with great haste. From their united steps I could tell that they must be well-trained soldiers.

Not long after, a regiment holding spears in their hands appeared in our vision. The Demon Clan insignia on their uniforms proved Gwynn's prediction to be correct.

The regiment quickly surrounded us, pointing their spears at us with alarmed looks. A soldier that looked like the captain made two steps forward and shouted, "Who are you people? What are you doing here?"

Gwynn smiled and said, "Who are we, you ask? Would an outsider be

standing here?"

The little captain's expression changed and shouted, "So they are spies! Everyone attack; don't let them escape."

I secretly laughed, it seems this little captain misunderstood Gwynn.

Griffin coldly snickered.

These were normal soldiers, even the weak Jiyan could easily take care of them.

Griffin could no longer restrain himself; hearing threats even after arriving home, these soldiers were already doomed. Griffin made one step forward, with a pa! sound, that little captain was fanned out heavily by the force , ramming into a few of the soldiers that came with him. As the other soldiers saw that their captain was hit, they immediately charged at us. Griffin spun around a little in the same spot, making all the spears that were pointed at him miss.

"Ping, ping, ping, ping!"

Without missing a single one, the twenty infantry soldiers were knocked down to the ground by Griffin, immobilized on the ground.

Gwynn walked two steps forward, pulling back Griffin who still intended to give more beatings. He advised, "Forget it, brother. These blind soldiers are also doing their duties." As he spoke, he threw out a royal token.

Covering his face, the little captain picked up the royal token and looked at it. He was immediately so frightened that he prostrated himself on the floor. He said with a trembling voice, "I did not know of lord's esteemed presence, this lowly servant has offended my lord in many ways, my lord please spare my life."

Griffin coldly snorted and said, "Look more carefully next time. Wait here, afterwards we will return to the camp together."

The little captain hurriedly organized his sorry team and stood aside with their heads lowered.

Gwynn held my hand and said, "Brother, this is where we part, I don't know when we will meet again. Always be careful during your mission, if things don't turn out well, return as soon as possible. No matter what, we brothers will always support you."

I nodded and said, "I know, thank you for your kindness."

Griffin also walked over, and we all shook hands.

"Take care."

"Take care."

Bringing along the unlucky infantry regiment, both of them left, heading in the direction of the Demon Clan's main camp.

Looking at their leaving silhouettes, I couldn't help but feel a little sad. Although we are not of the same clan, they were indeed very kind to me.

Jiyan smiled and said, "Those two were quite kind, I dare say their loyalty to you wouldn't waver even if they knew your true identity."

I shook my head and said, "Not necessarily. We each have different masters; although the Beastman Tribe and Demon Clans are allied. When it comes to one side benefiting, who knows what will happen. Anyways, we should leave. If we skirt the main camp of the Demon Clan, we should be able to return without any trouble."

Jiyan's eyes reddened, and she silently nodded. At this moment when we were about to part, neither of us were willing to say anything. We just quietly enjoyed each other's presence. Although the main camp of the Demon Clan was large, there still were borders. We gave the camp a wide berth and arrived at a place near the fort without encountering any trouble.

I pulled Black Dragon's reins and stopped. I tightly embraced Jiyan, I could feel my collar becoming soaked. The sun in the sky was blocked by a thick layer of clouds, and a heavy feeling settled in my chest.

Jiyan suddenly turned towards me and started to cry loudly while embracing me. Stroking her pale blue long hair, I comforted her.

“Don’t be like this. As long as I am still alive and you still love me, we’ll meet again one day, right? You should be safe here, the fort just up-ahead. I can only come with you until here. Come on, don’t cry.”

Jiyan lifted her head and gazed at me with tear streaked eyes, “You definitely cannot die, you must come back and find me! promise me!”

“Definitely. You must also take care of your health.”

Jiyan tightly embraced my chest and said mournfully, “We haven’t parted, but I’ve already started to miss you. What should I do?”

I nuzzled my face against her earlobe and whispered, “When you miss me, look at the purple crystal. My heart is contained inside.”

Jiyan took out two purple crystals and rubbed them against my face. She childishly said, “I want them to be tainted with your smell, it would be best if it never dissipates. I love you, Lay-lay.”

Listening to her words, my heart suddenly boiled over. I caressed her head with both hands and tried to kiss her passionately, but the result was obvious. I was once again thwarted by that unknown power in her body. Although I wasn’t dealt any damage because I was in peak condition, I was still thrown to the ground and left in a sorry state.

Jiyan jumped down from Black Dragon and pulled me up, saying hatefully, “Before you return, I’ll definitely be able control this hateful thing.”

I smiled bitterly and said, “I hope so. Although one may quench one’s thirst by thinking of plums, I hope to eat your plum, regardless of whether it tastes sour or sweet.”

Jiyan smiled sadly and said, “Whether it’s sour or sweet, this plum will forever be yours.”

I hugged her and affectionately said, “Jiyan, I love you too.”

Jiyan glued herself to me.

“These words are enough for me. This plum will never be destroyed. Even if it rots, the seed will remain forever, waiting forever for you to

return."

After a long time, I lightly pushed her away, "It's time, you should go."

Jiyan tugged a lock of her own long hair, used Black Sable to cut it, and then threaded a piece of cloth around it to tie the long hair together. She then placed it in my hands and solemnly said, "This is my promise to you, look at it when you miss me."

As the maiden's pale blue hair lightly swayed in the wind, I carefully tucked the long hair into my vest. I replied, "Until I we meet again, I will not part with it even for even a second" with a serious face.

Jiyan looked at me with misty eyes, and backed off step by step, until she was 10 metres away, where she abruptly turned her head and ran towards the fort. Crystal drops sprinkled and scattered in the air as she left, leaving a shining rainbow under the sunlight, trailing behind her. It was so beautiful, yet so heart-breaking at the same time.

I stood at that same place until the girl that I had unexpectedly fallen for had left. Black Dragon walked to my side and comforted me with his head.

Stroking the mane on its neck, I murmured, "Black Dragon, since Jiyan left, we should be on our way too." Suppressing the sorrow of parting, I mounted the horse and shouted, "Go, Black Dragon. Let's go home."

Riding on the Black Dragon I galloped towards the beastman military camp. However, was that place really my home? I travelled along the border of the fort and smoothly entered the Beastmen Territory.

The bleak and desolate landscape was in a deplorable state; It was a wasteland lacking even a decent forest. Although this was largely due to the war, I still felt that the existing regulations for the land weren't enough. No, it wasn't that the regulations were not strict enough, it was that there weren't any rules at all. This place was so far away from the Beastmen royal city, who had time for this place? Every time a war was declared against the Dragon Empire, we, the beastmen, would just listen to whatever the Demon Clan said.

Speaking of intelligence, the Beastmen were indeed inferior to the Demon Clan, but what's more important was that almost all the assets and logistics were managed by the Demon Clan. They had taken control of our economy and thus gained the right to speak. While thinking, I rode Black Dragon to the back of the main Beastman camp.

The Beastman military camp was connected to the Demon Clan's, but compared to the cow-leather tents of the Demon Clan, our tents were so simple, crude and thin. If we continue developing like this, sooner or later, our country will fall. Although I didn't have a favorable opinion of the Beastmen, I am a descendant of the Beamon family. I am one of them, (Beamon) thus, no matter what, I cannot allow the Beastmen to decay. This time, I had accomplished the mission that the Beastmen emperor gave to me. From the looks of this mission, the Beast emperor went to great lengths to make the country prosperous, even now.

Let's see what they will do when I return. If they trust me, I will do everything I can to help the Beastmen grow stronger, or at least to avoid the oppression of the Demon Clan.

The promise I made to the Jiyen sisters was for three years, but it was also the last time I would stay in Beastman country. The life here does not suit me.

"Who are you?! Don't move."

A few holes appeared in the ground, and about ten werewolves jumped out from inside, each holding a slanted knife. The hidden guards were probably defending the rear from a sneak attack by the Dragon Empire. Looking at their faces, they seemed to be quite devoted to their duties. I took out an ID token and threw it at them. The leader of the werewolves hurriedly took the plate. Seeing the symbol of the vice general of the Beamon troops, his whole body immediately trembled in shock. He anxiously looked at me with doubt in his eyes.

I coldly said, "Hmph, why, do you not believe my identity? I am the vice general of the Beamon army forces, the third son of Beamon King Leo, Layson. Hurry up and report to your superior!"

The leader of the werewolves did not dare act carelessly, and respectfully said, "Then please wait here for a moment, I will report to my superior." This is a necessary procedure since I look like a human.

I nodded, and after the leader of the werewolves left a few words to a werewolf soldier, he turned and ran to the main camp. The other werewolf soldiers no longer dared to surround me; they stood straight at my side. I questioned them, "How's our situation right now?"

The werewolves looked at each other blankly, no one dared to answer my question. It seemed they were still quite doubtful, so I did not press them further and silently waited. A werewolf's running speed was quite fast; after a while, a few figures with large builds appeared in my vision. Although I couldn't see them clearly, I could be sure of one thing: they were people from the Beamon tribe. Their height of over 4 metres stood out in the field.

"Third younger brother, why have you come?" The leader was, surprisingly, my eldest brother Laylon.

I expressionlessly nodded and said, "I have accomplished the mission father entrusted to me, and came back to report. Brother, why did you come to welcome me personally?"

Laylon laughed and said, "It's been a year since we met. You are tougher, but the situation on the frontlines isn't too good. Father feared that something might happen so he sent me."

Even though I rode on Black Dragon, I was still much shorter than my brother. After going through war, I could tell that my brother was currently much bolder and more powerful than in the past.

"Brother, you said that the situation in the frontlines isn't good; what's going on?"

Laylon raged, "Hmph! It was those Demon Clan bastards! Actually, our allied forces had the advantage, but those bastards suddenly retreated from battle a few days ago, leaving our forces behind. This allowed the Dragon Empire forces to encircle us, resulting in severe losses.

Just the Beamon army alone has already lost 200+ people; in total, the Beastmen forces' loss exceeded 10,000. It's a tremendous loss."

I said with a frown. "Did father discuss this matter with the Demon Clan?"

"Of course! But those demon bastards replied that we didn't retreat in time, so it's our fault. Third brother, you know that we Beastmen do not retreat when charging; The Demon Clan is only looking for excuses. If they'd charged with us, we might've already taken Fort Stelu. Your 2nd brother almost started a fight with them because of this matter."

"A fight?" The Demon Clan's power is almost completely derived from the Fallen Angels. Can my two brothers even compete with them?

Laylon nodded. "Oh, right, you don't know, but 2nd brother's skills have already surpassed mine. His Heaven's Thunder Armor already reached the 3rd tier like father's; He will not lose to a dragon knight in one on one battles."

During this war, second brother had many outstanding military exploits and became a major general. Looking at Laylon's shoulder, I see that he is still a brigadier general. We Beastmen adopted this military ranking system from the Demon Clan. Currently, my father (Beamon King Leo) was the highest ranking officer as the general. In the previous war, he was a commander. Second brother was really good at fighting; he was smarter than Eldest brother. However, Eldest brother definitely put in as much effort as 2nd brother; it's just that 2nd brother probably took all the credit for Eldest brother's achievements.

As for the improvement in skill, I really don't understand. Originally, there was a definite gap between Eldest and 2nd brother. Thus, unless father gave him special treatment, there was no way he could improve so quickly.

"Looking at your vigorous body, your skills must have improved quite a bit since you left. Eldest brother can no longer see your true power. It's good that you are back; the three of us working together can surely take Fort Stelu."

After hearing that, I secretly sighed in my heart. This big brother of mine is honest and straightforward; he doesn't care about his life during war, but his brain just works a bit slow. At the moment, the Demon Clan is clearly ordering our clansmen to take the frontlines and die, using our clansmen as meat-shields; Regardless of whether we win or not, the beastmen will suffer the most losses, since we Beastmen are first to die. How could Eldest brother not see this and keep going on about attacking?

Even though I can understand this much, I have no way to persuade him. What Beastmen value the most is raw strength. If I tell him to not advance so boldly, he would surely think that I look down on him.

"Please be more cautious in future battles, big brother. I think all will suffer losses from this attack on the Ford Stelu, and no one will benefit from it. So many years have passed, but when have we ever succeeded? It's better to preserve our strength and wait for the next opportunity."

Even if I had said my persuasion so euphemistically, Laylon's expression still changed drastically. He furiously said, "Third brother, what are you saying?! As a member of the Beamon troops, all we need to do is kill the largest amount of enemy forces on the frontline. What 'preserve our strength?!' Are our Beamon Troops supposed to live on just for the sake of staying alive? I don't want to hear any more of this."

I sighed: "How is my mother?"

Laylon's simple brain immediately forgot his anger with my change of topic and he nodded and replied,

"It's hard to say. I brought her food before I had left for war, but she was still the same as when you left."

"Thank you for taking care of her. Big brother, did she... did she ever ask about me?"

Laylon shook his head. "She would not speak to me. Whenever I visited her, she would give me a glance at most, but she kept all the gifts I brought with me. She is a human after all; her way of thinking will be different from ours. Don't think about it too much. We've arrived at the camp. Look over there, the biggest tent is father's residence. Come, let us

go there."

The Beastman camp was arranged according to military rank: the rank decreases as you move further from the center, and the central location is where our Beamon army and Wild Lion armies are. They are the only two troops with tents made of cow leather like those of the demon race.

Laylon and a few Beamon guards were the first to rush into the 7 meter high tent.

"Father, I am back. It really was Layson."

I immediately went in after that. The layout inside the tent was very simple and plain; most areas were empty; there was only a huge desk. Father, who was sitting on the dragon skin chair, coincidentally raised his head. His appearance had not changed much, only looking a bit tired. He was wearing simple thick leather armor, with a huge golden shoulder guard on his left shoulder; my father's typical appearance. After seeing me, father asked in a low voice,

"Why are you back? Don't tell me that you can't stay over there at the Dragon Empire anymore? Don't you know how important the mission that his Majesty gave to you is?"

I didn't have even a slightly good impression of him; I didn't salute him either. The Mad God Chi enveloped my whole body, giving me a breathtaking presence.

I plainly answered him: "I have finished the mission."

At first, when he saw that I had become stronger, his expression slightly softened, but after hearing that I had already finished the mission, he stood up abruptly, his eyes exploding with an ominous glint.

"What did you say? You finished your mission? This quickly?"

Raising my right hand, I said with a cold voice:

"I, Layson, swear by the honor of the Lay family upon the Beast God, that I have already accomplished the mission which His Majesty gave me. If there are any lies, I will willingly die, being swallowed by ten thousands

snakes.”

Hearing my solemn vow, father slowly calmed down, and said to Laylon, “Bring your little brother a chair, then leave with the others. I have questions for him.”

“Yes, father.”

Sitting on the fur chair designed for Beamon, I felt very small. This is probably the best treatment I could have ever gotten from father. After my eldest brother left, father’s eyes shone with great excitement, “Quick, tell me; how did you finish the mission this quickly, and tell me about your experience during the time in the Dragon Empire too!”

I sat up straight and took a deep breath.

“To make a long story short, at that time, I used the identity you gave me to enter the Dragon Empire. After I successfully passed the entrance exam of one of the four greatest schools in the Dragon Empire, the Sky City Academy, I clashed with some nobles there, so the vice president of the Sky City Academy locked me inside the academy’s library.

I stayed in there for three months, memorizing everything useful for us Beastmen, including various ways of training, war strategies, governing policies and the like. At the same time, during a year or so of being in the Dragon Empire I learned many things about their administration. And this time, the Sky City Academy students were to be sent into the battle; in order to avoid conflict with our tribe, I feigned death in the melee to escape and came back to report my duties to you.”

Father muttered to himself as he looked at me with indecision and hesitation.

I continued, “Are you doubting the usefulness of the knowledge I acquired, father? Rest assured, the things I chose to memorize were the most useful and important works in the library. After reporting to you, I wish to go to the Imperial City so I can quickly write down my knowledge for His Majesty’s use.”

Father nodded.

"I hope that you have indeed finished your mission. How about this; I will give you a few soldiers, and you can go with them to the Imperial city immediately. Whether or not you have finished your mission will be decided by his Majesty. Right now, I am directing our forces and don't have more time to talk with you. Leave. Now go call your eldest brother for me."

Chapter 8: Offenders Must Die

My father, as always, didn't show any affection for me. His cold treatment returned my heart back to its state before it had met Jisure; ice-cold. I swiftly left the tent, found my elder brother, and led him back to the tent.

Laylon went in and said, "Father, you called for me?"

"Yes. Go pick some guards to accompany your brother back to the Imperial Capital."

"But father, brother just returned; how about letting him rest here for a day?" Laylon's words warmed my heart; he was the only person in my family that I felt some kinship with.

Father frowned, "No, he has some urgent matters to attend to. Obey my orders. You guys can leave now. Layson, when you leave, there is no need to return. After you're back home...nevermind. Hurry up and go."

I quietly followed elder brother out of the tent. Laylon rested his hand on my shoulders and said, "We have to part again, even though you've just returned. Little brother, be careful on your way to the Imperial Capital. Brother will find you some skilled clansmen."

I bluntly asked, "Is the road still chaotic?"

Laylon sighed and said, "Our Beastmen country has always been like this, with bandits everywhere. Don't worry, with the guards protecting you, nothing will happen."

I tightly clenched my fist and said in an ice-cold voice: "Bandits? Crossing paths with me would be their worst misfortune. Big brother, don't worry, I am not a kid anymore. This is for you: keep it on your body, it will bring some good fortune to you." While saying this, I took out a turquoise stone from my vest. After the life and death struggle last time, I noticed that the thing that kept me alive was this inconspicuous green stone. Without the stones, I could not have lasted long enough to obtain victory in the end.

Laylon held the turquoise between his fingers and asked, "What is this thing?"

I smiled and said, "Don't ask, just take it. And don't let others see it; It will help you on the battlefield."

Laylon frowned and looked at the tiny turquoise stone, and said, "Alright then, since you're the one who said it, I'll definitely hold on to it properly."

"Just now, someone told me that a vice general returned, so I wondered who it was, and I find out it was you, little hybrid*." A familiar but hateful voice rang beside my ears. Big brother and I turned our heads back at the same time, and we saw Layhu, who was as tall and big as big brother. Layhu was still the same and had the same hideous face. "Little hybrid" was the nickname he had come up with, and as far back as I can remember, he had always called me this.

I coldly snorted, "Hmph, who are you calling 'little hybrid'?"

Layhu clenched his fist and produced some clack clack noise between his knuckles. He spoke while his mouth twitched, "Who do you think? We haven't seen each other only for a while and now the little hybrid even has a temper. It even dares to resist too."

Laylon stood in front of me and angrily said: "Second brother, stop with your nonsense. He's also your brother, how can you call him a hybrid?"

Layhu shot a glance of disdain at his elder brother.

"I say, big brother, how is he considered our brother? Look at him, does he look even a little like us Beamon? If he isn't a hybrid, then what is he, that worthless human gave birth to this lowly hybrid. I really don't know what father was thinking. What's the point of letting him stay here? If it were me, I would have strangled him in the cradle, so that I wouldn't have to feel hatred every time I see him."

Laylon suddenly felt a chill on his back, turning back to look, he was so terrified that he was forced to take a few steps back.

"Father made a mistake by letting me live?"

Father's cold attitude and Layhu's insult angered me, after having just returned from the Dragon Empire. I stared at Layhu hatefully with my crimson eyes. The hair that had turned red fluttered in the still air. After my berserk transformation, my muscles bulged and most of my clothes were torn. Father's cold attitude and Layhu's insult made me go mad after having just returned from the Dragon Empire. I stared hatefully at Layhu with crimson eyes.

Layhu seeing me in that state, was stupefied: "What, is that hybrid going crazy?"

Emitting a dangerous and awe-inspiring aura, I walked toward Layhu step by step, while continuously muttering. "Who did you say is a hybrid?! Who are you calling a hybrid!? ..."

Laylon grabbed my shoulder and frantically said: "Third brother, stop this. Let the three of us have a nice chat."

With a shrug of my shoulder, I shook off Laylon, squeezing out the words from between my teeth: "What nice chat? Whoever insults me must die."

Because of our argument, there was a big crowd around us. Most of them were either from the Wild Lion Army or the Beamon Army. Due to our ranks as vice generals, nobody dared to stop us, but a few smart soldiers went to fetch my father.

Laylon looked at his hand, not believing that a mere shrug of my shoulder made his hand numb and murmured: "But, but, you are still his elder brother after all!"

Layhu raged: "Who is his elder brother? He is a hybrid. Stinking hybrid, don't think that just because you look like this I will fear you, today I will show you the true power of a Beamon!"

After saying that, he roared loudly and took a step forward to send a punch through the air.

It was just as big brother had said, Layhu's Armor of Heavenly Thunders had already reached the third tier, with a lump of faint white chi coming

from his fist he violently rushed towards me. If I was not in Berserk mode, I might not have been a match for him, but while being in Berserk I dare to fight even dragon knights. I didn't even know the meaning of fear. I abruptly rushed forward, greeting his chi. Layhu laughed coldly and snorted, "Time for you to die."

Charging forward I abruptly threw a punch. A stream of red chi came from the punch and clashed with the white chi from Layhu. hong! Layhu was forced two steps back, his expression changing slightly, my speed had barely slowed as I continued charging at him.

My valour triggered Layhu's aggression, he charged at me roaring furiously. I leaped into the sky with one touch of my foot on the ground, I roared, "Heavenly Berserk." Berserk Fist could only unleash it's full potential while in berserk mode. A crimson pillar of chi covered the sky, but Layhu continued to charge at me without any hesitation, continuously throwing his fists. "hong, hong, hong, hong, hong, hong." The mad god chi released from Heavenly Berserk clashed with Layhu's heavenly armour six times, and Layhu's gigantic body, more than five meters tall, was sent flying. He landed on a tent, destroying it.

Watching the bragger Layhu, who was always boasting he would become the new Beamon King, being sent flying by me, the soldiers of the two tribes were shocked. All of them began to murmur.

One soldier of the Wild Lion said, "Who is this person? He's so impressively powerful, even vice general Layhu cannot keep up with him."

"You don't know? He is the youngest son of our Beamon king, also a vice general. Although he is not as big in stature and not as tall, he looks a bit like a human too, but he is the only Beamon in the past hundreds of years who can go berserk."

A Beamon soldier who stood beside answered proudly, "Hehe, this time vice general Layhu can no longer brag, he always seemed like his eyes were placed on the top of his head; this time he bit off more than he could chew, even defeated by the hands of his own younger brother."

Layhu shoved aside the tent, tottering as he stood, even though he has a

tyrannical defense, he had suffered some injuries. “Hybrid, you are ruthless. Good. Today I will go all out on you.” And with a roar, he charged forward again.

He wasn’t even a match for me after I went berserk in his normal state, much less after getting injured. When facing this person, who had always bullied mother and I since I was young, I was full of killing intent. Ever since I had completed the Fallen angel transformation my speed even when untransformed had substantially increased. On top of that I also casted float magic on myself and used the advantage of my smaller body and speed to avoid all of his hits while landing heavy punches on him. Big brother Laylon was panicking at the side, he wanted to interfere quite a few times, but he wasn’t able to catch up to our fast figures. He was only able to observe Layhu getting punched here and there like a sandbag. With my superior speed, I didn’t even give him the chance to land on the ground. With Every fist hitting his body Layhu wildly sprayed out blood. After throwing ten punches, I knew I had broken at least ten of his bones. But the Heavenly Armour is indeed a brilliant protection technique, and coupled with his innate tyrannical defense, even after taking so many heavy hits, he surprisingly survived.

I roared, “Wild Dance of the Mad Dragon!” My body turned into a crimson dragon, and the force behind it was no less than what it was whilst wielding Black Sable. If I had compared this skill to the time I used it in Fallen Angel transformation, I would say that it was probably even more powerful. This was my trump card I had saved for Layhu. Even if his defenses are stronger, I will turn him into a pile of minced meat, just like I did to White Skye.

After berserking, I had no qualms about killing. When facing the target that had caused me to go berserk, my mind only shouted KILL, KILL, KILL!

“Stop.” Seeing the moment Layhu was about lose his life, a heaven-shaking roar rang, and Layhu’s eyes flashed with a glint of happiness. A gigantic white light appeared in front of Layhu, stopping all the power of my Wild dance of the Mad Dragon. The crimson dragon rammed into the white luminophore, producing Pi! Pi! Pa! Pa! noises, with a hong! noise in

the end. The long dragon that I had formed vanished as I turned back into my original form, with a pale face I flew backwards, my crimson hair gradually dimming.

The white light slowly faded, revealing father's angered and surprised face. In the face of his imposing regal countenance, all of the soldiers that were present prostrated themselves on the ground, then shouted in unison, "Long live the Beamon King, long live, long live."

Father lowered his head and glanced at the moaning Layhu, "Father, save me. Kill that little hybrid."

After listening to that, Leo naturally understood why we clashed.

Father coldly snorted and bellowed, "You made me lose face, you can't even fight against your own younger brother. Someone come, lug him away and find a doctor to treat him." When Father finished speaking, he took giant steps towards me.

Looking at father closing in step by step, I tried to accumulate more power; if he blamed me for my actions I would fight him with everything I had, I had no way to contain the anger in my heart. But I had exhausted almost all of my berserking energy, and as a result my body gradually returned to it's original form; Layhu was, after all, a powerful warrior among the Beamons. There's a saying, There is no glory without sacrifice. To have beaten him into that state I had to spend a great amount of chi.

Weakness overtook me, and I knelt to the floor on one knee, using my palm to support my body. At this time, Father had arrived in front of me and raised his hand to stop Laylon from speaking and hurled me up.

I discovered that his expression was surprisingly gentle. From his big hand, he sent some of his chi towards me. With the help of his chi, my mental state was refreshed and I stood up straight.

Father's ice-cold gaze swept across the soldiers who were prostrating on the ground and loudly said, "All of you, listen carefully. Today, I, as the Beamon King, will announce that my third son Layson will now have the same respected and honored position as my other sons in this Beastman country; all of my sons are the Beamon troop's vice-generals. If I ever

hear an insult against Layson in the future, that will mean that it is an insult towards me, Leo. No matter who it is, I will not take it lightly.”

“Long live the Beamon King, long live vice-general Layson.”

Father nodded with satisfaction and shouted, “What are you kneeling here for, go back to your own positions.”

After dismissing the soldiers father looked at me deeply. I would not feel happy nor excited because of what he just said; I used my own strength to protect my position. Without backing down the slightest I stared back at him.

“Good, you are finally worthy of being my, Leo’s, son. After staying in the Dragon Empire for a year, your improvements are great, especially that skill just now; it was pretty good. Keep that up, Berserk mode spends a lot of power so you don’t have to leave today, rest for a day. Laylon, arrange a place for your brother to stay and depart tomorrow morning.” As he finished speaking, father turned and left.

Big brother stepped forward and supported me, saying softly, “Third brother, how come you became so agitated today? Let’s go, I will arrange a place for you to stay.” As he said that, he dragged my exhausted body towards his own tent.

The next day I was riding on Black Dragon and slowly heading towards the Beastman country, with eight giant Beamons walking behind me. Due to my performance yesterday, they were very revering towards me, even if they were very tired due to running they didn’t make a noise. With them following me, it was very different from when I left for the Dragon Empire; this time, there isn’t even one bandit. I guess they all hid in fear after seeing these eight giant Beamon beasts.

On the way there I rarely spoke, my mood was gloomy from the start, whenever I thought about Jiyan and Jisue only then would my mood soften a little. Without the disturbance of the bandits, we advanced very quickly, and within 10 days we arrived at the territory of the Beast Empire city.

A beamon guard asked: “Sir vice general, shall we go back to the

mansion first or.....”

“Back to the mansion”

“Yes”

First I need to go see my mother; after being gone for such a long time I was worried about how she fared. After meeting the duke, my hatred against my mother has weakened a lot. She had never been good to me but that could only be blamed on fate. I need to tell her about meeting my with the duke.

When I entered the Beamon King’s mansion, which had not changed in the slightest, still wide and majestic, I coldly said, “You lot, go find a place to rest, there is no need to follow me. Wait for me at the entrance tomorrow morning.”

“Yes, Sir vice-general.” Looking at the unchanged courtyard that seemed both familiar and unfamiliar, my heart was at a loss; was this my home? After a long sigh, I went into the courtyard with Black Dragon, charging straight to my mother’s residence.

I noticed the servants hiding far away from us; it seems that I am still like a piece of ice stuck in their hearts, from the beginning till the end.

When I arrived at the door I heard a sharp toned voice coming from inside, “Pa! you lowly human, this midwife will beat you to death, that devil’s son of yours and that little beastly bastard Laylon are gone, let’s see who will defend you now, how was that? Did you feel great after being hit? HAHAHA, you dare to stare at me? Are you tired of living?! Pa! Hmph! Don’t worry, I will not beat you to death, if i beat you to death, where would be the fun in that? Where would I get another plaything later on.....”

After listening up to there I could no longer restrain myself, bursting into my mother’s room like an arrow. The room is in an incredible state, things scattered everywhere. At this moment a 50 year old lionwoman held my mother by her hair, her fat fierce looking face was disgusting. This person is Layhu’s mother, the third wife of my father and also the cousin of the Beast Emperor.

There is no one in the family who would dare to provoke her, but a rather flattering adjective is generally used to describe her--bitch.

There was blood on the edge of mothers' mouth; overall she looked far worse than she had before I had left. Her clothes were torn and she was staring ruthlessly at the ugly bitch.

"Let go of her." My voice was an ice-cold whisper straight out of hell.

When the ugly bitch vixen lifted her head and saw that it was me her expression changed a little and she let go of my mother: "Oh. I thought it was someone calling for a funeral but looks like it's just a lowly hybrid; look at yourself all skinny and weak. Compared to my Layhu, the difference between you and Layhu was as if heavens and earth--"

I stepped forward and with a swing of my right arm I sent the ugly bitch flying, she rammed into the wall of the room heavily. Looking at my mother who is in such a bad condition, my eyes became wet.

I reached out my hand and propped up her thin and weak body: "Mother, I am back, you have endured a lot." mother looked at me with a trace of liveliness, but did not speak.

The body of the ugly bitch is pretty sturdy, although she was thrown out, she didn't sustain much damage after the fall. She let out a shrill scream and with that scream she stormed toward me: "You little animal dare to hit me, this old woman will tear you apart." she looked like a bitch* that had finally gone rabid.

I kicked her away without using much strength, with my back to her I said "No need to struggle, today is when your life ends." After saying that I gently put mother on the bed, and covered her properly with a quilt. "Mother, you can rest here for the moment. I will take care of that vixen now and will be back soon. You must take care of your body. I have finished the request you gave properly, wait for a few moments and I will give you all the details, Ok?"

Hearing my sentence, mother's eyes clearly displayed more spirit, pulling at my clothes: "Is that true? He, is he still well?"

I gave a light smile: "Wait a moment and I will answer all your questions soon. But please rest for the moment; otherwise you won't have the strength to listen to my story well, right?"

A tear rolled down mother's cheek, with a voice choking of emotion: "Thank you."

Hearing her thanking me made my heart ache, "You shouldn't be thanking me, I am your son, and will forever be."

After finishing my speech I took a deep breath, then I stood up. The vixen glared at me fiercely, "You, you dare to do anything to me?"

"Wait a little longer, and you will know." I grabbed her collar and lifting her up without effort I dragged her outside.

How could a vixen like her not resist? As I dragged her towards the big courtyard she struggled as if her life was on the line, scratching and biting. But how could she hope to injure my sturdy Beamon body like that? As the servants around us saw what was happening they noiselessly hid far away; clearly they knew what was happening.

I called the closest person: "You, come over here." If I remember correctly, this snakeman is in charge of cleaning the courtyard. The snakeman came up to me trembling, shooting glances at the bitch. With a shaky voice he said, "Third young master, you called?"

I ordered with a heavy voice: "Go and gather everyone out of their residences, regardless of age or gender. Also call the eight Beamon guards that arrived with me, I have something to announce."

The snake man tentatively asked: "Even the first Ms?" the first Ms was Laylon's mother, who has been bedridden for the past years.

"Except the first Ms and her servant, gather everyone else, act quickly or I will break your legs."

"Yes, yes, this lowly servant will go immediately."

The ugly bitch hissed, "What do you want to do, if you dare touch me and my Hu-er comes back, you will be minced into ten thousand pieces."

I snorted coldly: "Mince me into ten thousand pieces? I don't know whether he'll be able to do so in the future, but at the moment he doesn't have what it takes. I am afraid that he'll need to wait for more than half a year before he can even hope to stand up and walk. I took care of him before coming home."

Layhu is this vixen's treasure, she shuddered: "You, what did you do to Hu-er? No, that's not possible. you are no match for Hu-er. Liar! Liar!"

"Hmpf, wait a moment longer and I will show you the truth. Don't worry, he's not dead, no, he just has a few broken bones. But I don't think you'll be as lucky, because this time father won't appear to save you again."

The ugly bitch experienced fear for the first time, she shivered: "You.... you want to kill me?"

I snorted without answering. Shortly, all the people who live in the mansion came, father, eldest brother and second brother weren't home, so I am the master right now, I was no longer the Layson everyone looked down upon since young, when I killed the first beamon guard, my position inside the family had started to change since then.

The snakeman came up to me bowed: "Third young master, everybody, who is at home, is here, you may look...." I replied coldly: "Alright, stand aside."

I looked around, besides my few step mothers, most of them are servants and guards, including the guards I brought with me.

I pointed at a beamon guard who came back with me from the frontline: "You, come here."

"Vice general, your order."

"Tell this vixen, what her son, who is also my second brother, is doing right now."

The beamon guard looked at the ugly bitch blankly and said, "Vice general Layhu is recuperating right now."

This one is really like a log, I ranged, “Tell him how Layhu was injured, do you need me to teach you how to speak?”

That beamon guard was so terrified of me that he took a step backwards, after remembering about the day I beat up Layhu, his eyes displayed a trace of terror, “That day vice general Layhu in-insulted vice general Layson, because of that vice general Layson had beaten and injured vice general Layhu. After that, king Leo intervened and saved vice general Layhu. This is the reason vice general Layhu is recuperating right now. King Leo also announced in front of everyone, that if anyone else insults vice general Layson in the future, there will be no way of letting them off lightly.”

Although this Beamon guard was a bit inarticulate and a little silly, he had described the base of the situation crudely, I waved with my hand, “step down.”

“Did you hear that clearly? Your son is not invincible, anyone who insults me and my mother will not end well. If that day father did not interfere, your son would already be in hell. Since father said those who insult me will not be let off lightly, then today I will punish you for him.”

The vixen had lost her previous flame and arrogance, she said blankly: “But, but he is your brother and I am your stepmother.”

I laughed sadly, “Bother? That mongrel a brother? Has he ever seen me as a brother? From childhood till now, even once? In his eyes I am nothing but a hybrid. And you, who has insulted and beaten up my mother, today I will let you pay back a hundredfold.”

I suddenly lifted my head, with my eyes bloodshot, terrifying everyone around me so much that they unconsciously took a few steps backwards.

“Today I called you all out here because I want to let all of you know. If one of you dares to bully my mother, this one here will be your example. Unless I die, no matter who it is, even if it’s my own father I will fight him to the very end. Do you guys understand?” My voice is filled with dense killing Intent, the temperature of the whole courtyard seemed to have sunk under zero degrees, everyone could feel the ice-cold chilling in their

heart.

A stepmother who normally had good terms with that vixen opened her mouth and spoke, “She is your step mother; you cannot do this to her. Let’s wait ‘till your father is back to discuss this matter, ok?”

I snorted heavily, narrowing my eyes to a slit; with a cold gaze I looked at this step mother who dared to come forward: “Stop blabbering nonsense over there, you’re nothing better. However, you are right; she is my step mother, Sigh...” While saying that, I nodded.

Everyone sighed in relief, believing that I had changed my mind. Just as they relaxed, with a furious look I roared: “DIE—!!!” My right hand struck down rapidly; Mad God Chi bursting forth.

Hong!

I struck the vixen’s body squarely on the head, was reduced to a pile of minced meat with blood splattering everywhere; My entire body and face were covered with the blood of my mother’s tormentor.

The step mother who had defended the ugly vixen fainted on the spot, some women with an ash pale face started to vomit, all the others are trembling while looking at me. With my whole body reeking in fresh blood I stood in the middle of the courtyard; like an Asura who just walked out of hell.

“This is your example, did all of you see that clearly?” Nobody dared to answer under the pressure of my imposing manner.

I repeated with a loud voice, “Did all of you see that clearly?”

The servants fearfully stuttered, “We-we saw it clearly.”

My expression eased, “Clean this place, pick up these minced meat and find a place to bury all these rotten things. Those with nothing to do can disperse. And don’t forget what I said today.”

After this speech I did not directly visit mother... well you can not visit her with the whole body reeking of blood, right? Changing into new clothes I felt more relaxed.

Coming back to mother's room, which was cleaned by servants. Mother was like before I left, lying on the bed, "Mother, I am back."

I walked to her and sat beside her bed. Mother turned around, struggling to sit. I hurriedly supported her body, putting a pillow behind her. Mother took a deep breath and said, "Tell me, tell me everything."

Looking at mothers aged and withered face, I could not help but feel a burst of sourness in my heart, If this continues, I am afraid she will not last for more than a few years.

I reached into my pocket and took out a Bloodstone and a Turquoise, handed it over to her. Mother was stunned, "This is Bloodstone and Turquoise. Why do you have these things? They are of the best quality, and price is sky high!"

Mother doesn't look like that she will keep this, with a move of heart I said, "He gave me these so that I can bring them to you or why would I have such valuable things "

Mother's body shivered, reaching out she grabbed the two gems, with teary eyes she muttered: "Oh Linden, oh Linden, have you not forgotten about me?"

"Not only that he did not forget you, he still missed you a lot"

Suddenly my mother grabbed my hand asking me with haste: "Hurry, hurry tell me, how is he."

I held back at the ice-cold hands of my mother and gently said: "Don't be hasty, I will slowly tell you everything."

Supporting her so that she could lean back again, seeing her calmed down a little I continued: "It is like this, when I arrived at the Dragon Empire, I entered the Sky City Academy to learn martial arts and magic"

"Sky City Academy?"

"Yes! Why do you ask?"

"Sigh....." mother let out a long sigh and said, "I studied at that academy too."

I smiled and nodded: "I know."

"Did he, he tell you this?"

I nodded and said, "Yes, after a short time studying there I met an admirable girl. We tried to hang out. She is very gentle and cute, and was very kind to me; her name is Jisue."

Mother frowned: "You are a beastman. How can you have that sort of relation with a human girl; this will ruin her." My heart ached, am I forever only a beast like my father in my mother's heart?

"Hear me out, ok? Without this girl, I would have never found the Linden you talked about."

"Why?", mother was unable to hold in the question.

I gave a plain smile: "Because Jisue is Linden's daughter, and Linden is now the duke of the Dragon Empire with power over all levels of society."

This sentence had a great impact on my mother, "Duke? He still married another person all along, he really forgot me, should I be happy?" Mother mockingly laughed, but her tears were uncontrollably rolling down.

"No, he didn't forget about you, Linden..... Ah, no he... became part of the royal family, now he change his name to Jiden, in his heart you are still the most precious one to him. He only married another person because there was no other choice, like my grandma and grandpa, they also had a political marriage."

"Political marriage?"

I nodded, "Yes, otherwise, even if he had more talent, Jiden wouldn't have achieved such high position before reaching the age of forty-something. When he saw the item you gave me last time, he looked just like you; he couldn't suppress his excitement. He told me that he has been to the beastmen territory to find you countless times, but he never found anything."

Mother was stupefied: "He came to find me? He was here to find me?

How could he possibly find me?"

I sighed: "Yeah, if you are here, he will never find you, but he had great hope of seeing you again."

I could see that mother was suffering terribly in her heart. Her tears kept flowing non-stop. I held her ice-cold hand. "Don't be like this mother. The duke said that no matter what you have become, as long as you are still alive, he would give up everything in order to find you."

With a vivid expression in her eyes, mother said, "Did, did he really say that?"

I nodded, "Although we haven't had much contact since childhood, I haven't lied to you a single time, have I? Duke Jiden told me everything about the past between you two; he really has been missing you from the bottom of his heart."

With a bitter smile mother shook her head: "Let him keep this delusion, it is impossible for me to see him again. Right now, I probably look more like his mother."

Suddenly, I made up my mind, resolutely saying: "Mother, do you wish to go back to the Dragon Empire and see Duke Jiden again?"

Mother didn't answer me directly, she plainly asked: "You will betray your father, betray your clansmen, just to let me go home? Don't joke with me!"

It was hard to suppress the sorrow in my heart; I laughed violently, tears dripping unceasingly as I said: "Clansmen? Who are my clansmen? In almost everyone's eyes I am just 'a hybrid'. Mother, you have a home. Your home is the Dragon Empire; that is where you belong. But, what about me? Do I have a home? I don't have a home! I am alone; I am a hybrid of human, demon, and beastman. I don't have a home! I don't have a home!"

With a sweetness in my throat, the intense grief and indignation made me spew out a mouthful of fresh blood. Mother had a change of expression when she heard me say that I didn't have a home. She reached

out to grab me, but halted halfway and withdrew her hand. I laughed bitterly: "As long as you wish for it, will I take you back to the Dragon Empire, but of course not right now."

Mother with a lifeless look in her eyes, mumbling: "I can no longer go back, I already have no face to see them."

"The duke doesn't mind how you look or anything else."

Mother was almost shouting: "But, I care. I can't go back to him the way that I look; I will only bring him trouble."

Now that mother only cared about the duke, who is left to care about me? Perhaps Jiyan and Jisue? Are they thinking of me? Jiyan's refined, clear and attractive style, Jisue's sweet-tempered, pleasant and charming style was constantly bubbling up in my mind. Right. If they are still thinking of me, then I am no longer alone in this world anymore, right? Thinking about this I felt a lot more at ease in my heart. I plainly said, "Mother, what if I have a way to restore your youth and beauty?"

Hearing this sentence, mother's eyes shined as the dawn, her hope rekindled by the sweet words. If, if..... Mother really didn't dare to think any further, but her heartbeat was still rising. "If I have a way to restore your youth and beauty, will you be willing to go back to the Dragon Empire?"

Mother smiled bitterly: "Do you think you are a sage? I fear that not even a sage can restore my youth and beauty."

I put up three fingers: "Give me three years. You already waited so long, you won't mind waiting for another 3 years, will you? Within these three years I will restore your beauty, and then take you back then to the Dragon Empire. You don't have to worry about unnecessary things, just follow what I say."

Mother sat up straight, staring straight at me: "Is-is that true?" I nodded seriously: "First, I want you to eat three meals a day, everyday on time. I will also tell them to bring you more nutritious medicine. Secondly, since you recognize the two stones that the duke gave you, you should already know how to use them. You must keep them close to you every day. And

lastly, wait for my news. What you should do now is to fill your heart with hope, like hope during the spring; only with this will you get your youth back. ”

Hearing what I said, mother was silent for a long time. Then she said arduously, “Thank you, why are you so good to me?

I was a little agitated and said, “Didn’t I tell you not to thank me?”

After I was finished speaking, I walked with big steps towards the door. As I reached the entrance I turned my head around, “I am not being good to you but rather I only wish for your happiness*, because you are my mother no matter what; even if you don’t love me.” With that said, I turned around and left the place which made my heart grieve.

Credits

Translator: [ITRANSLATELN](#) / [Dark Translations](#)

Epub: [Estevam](#) / [dotNOVEL](#)